

Synthesis of Signatories' Online Update Forms on Implementation of the Raptors MoU

CONGO

Compiler: Mr Jerome Mokoko Ikonga,

Deputy Director, Wildlife Conservation Society, Congo Programme



Q. Are birds of prey species fully protected from all forms of unlawful killing (including poisoning, shooting, persecution), and unsustainable exploitation in your Country?

Yes. Law 03/91 of 24 April 1991 on environmental protection; Law 37-2008 of 28 November 2008 on protected fauna and areas; Decree 6075 of 9 April 2011 which sets out a list of fully and partially protected animal species.

Q. Have important raptor sites (e.g. where Category 1 species breed) and migration bottlenecks been identified, protected and managed for their benefit in your Country?

No. Despite the various species censuses conducted across the country, no important raptor sites have been identified. As such, there are no specific management programmes in place.

Q. Have important raptor habitats been identified and are being managed sustainably in your Country?

Yes. Lac Télé is a site of international importance under the Ramsar Convention. It is a known migration site, with its own bird protection and sustainable management programme. Education campaigns have also been conducted among the local populations.

Q. Has any species protection or management programmes (including artificial nest schemes, sustainable harvest or reintroductions) been carried out in your Country? Please summarise completed and planned activities.

No.

Q. Have any co-ordinated raptor monitoring and research programmes been carried out in your Country to establish population trends, impacts of threats on raptors and to identify measures for their conservation and sustainable management? Please summarise completed and planned activities.

No.

Q. Have any awareness-raising activities been carried out about birds of prey, the threats that they face, and the measures that need to be taken to conserve them in your Country? Please summarise completed and planned activities.

No. Not for raptors specifically, but this has been done for birds in general.

Q. Additional comments concerning the implementation of the Raptors MoU in your Country. Please use this space to highlight any major raptor conservation successes or concerns. Please list any specific needs for support to assist effective implementation in your Country.

Despite the fact that Congo has signed the MoU, there remains much work to be done, including the drafting of a national action plan. The main obstacle remains a lack of available skills and expertise in this area. Capacity-building work is therefore required.

DENMARK

Compiler: Mr. Erling Krabbe, Head of Section, Danish Nature Agency



Q. Are birds of prey species fully protected from all forms of unlawful killing (including poisoning, shooting, persecution), and unsustainable exploitation in your Country?

Yes, Hunting and Wildlife Management Act. All raptors and owls are protected.

Q. Have important raptor sites (e.g. where Category 1 species breed) and migration bottlenecks been identified, protected and managed for their benefit in your Country?

Yes. All nesting trees of raptors are protected according to legal measures. Important migration bottlenecks in Denmark are generally well protected according to the Act of Planning and Nature Protection.

Q. Have important raptor habitats been identified and are being managed sustainably in your Country?

Yes. Major raptor sites of the country are identified as Natura 2000 sites, and managed sustainably accordingly.

Q. Has any species protection or management programmes (including artificial nest schemes, sustainable harvest or reintroductions) been carried out in your Country? Please summarise completed and planned activities.

Yes. All Eagle nests and most red kite nests are generally well protected against public access, according to special agreement with the private owners, or in state forest. No reintroduction schemes have been carried out, since there is general opposition to this. It turns out, that all species return naturally sooner or later, i.e. Peregrine, Red Kite, White-tailed Sea-Eagle, Golden Eagle, Eagle Owl and Tengmalm's Owl. So no artificial help has been necessary or wanted.

Q. Have any co-ordinated raptor monitoring and research programmes been carried out in your Country to establish population trends, impacts of threats on raptors and to identify measures for their conservation and sustainable management? Please summarise completed and planned activities.

Yes, Bird-Life Denmark has carried out an ongoing Eagle project, following and monitoring the return of the eagles. The same goes for Peregrine. Nature Agency has carried out protection measures for the red kite, in collaboration with Danish Ornithological Society.

Q. Have any awareness-raising activities been carried out about birds of prey, the threats that they face, and the measures that need to be taken to conserve them in your Country? Please summarise completed and planned activities.

Yes. Bird Life Denmark Eagle project. Brochures on red kite.

Q. Additional comments concerning the implementation of the Raptors MoU in your Country. Please use this space to highlight any major raptor conservation successes or concerns. Please list any specific needs for support to assist effective implementation in your Country.

Please notice that migration bottlenecks in Denmark are not specifically protected to ensure the well-being of raptors, but are generally well protected due to a number of landscape interests. These areas do not generally serve as important feeding areas for raptors, but only as high air migration spots.

FRANCE

Compiler: Mr Jean-Philippe Siblet, Deputy Director, Natural Heritage Department,
National Museum of Natural History



Q. Are birds of prey species fully protected from all forms of unlawful killing (including poisoning, shooting, persecution), and unsustainable exploitation in your Country?

Yes. All raptor species are fully protected under French law.

Q. Have important raptor sites (e.g. where Category 1 species breed) and migration bottlenecks been identified, protected and managed for their benefit in your Country?

Yes. For the last 30 years, France has conducted a census of so-called Natural Areas of Interest for Ecology, Flora and Fauna (Zones Naturelles d'Intérêt Ecologique, Faunistique et Floristique – ZNIEFF), which identifies key biodiversity areas in both mainland France and its overseas territories. Raptor species are found in many of these areas. France has also designated a number of Natura 2000 sites to protect raptor species. Furthermore, many protected areas (such as national parks, nature reserves and biotope protection orders) have been created wholly or partially in order to preserve raptor breeding grounds.

Q. Have important raptor habitats been identified and are being managed sustainably in your Country?

Yes. The Natura 2000 sites and protected areas (national parks, nature reserves, biotope protection orders, etc.) are managed in a way that recognises the presence of at-risk raptor species.

Q. Has any species protection or management programmes (including artificial nest schemes, sustainable harvest or reintroductions) been carried out in your Country? Please summarise completed and planned activities.

Yes. A major Vulture species reintroduction programme was launched 30 years ago. This programme has led to the successful reintroduction of the Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*) and the Eurasian Black Vulture (*Aegypsius monachus*) in the Cévennes and the Alps. The Bearded Vulture (*Gypaetus barbatus*) has also been successfully reintroduced in the Alps, with a similar reintroduction programme due to start in the Cévennes in 2013. There has also been a major preservation programme targeting the Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*). This has led to a spectacular rise in the population of this species over the last 30 years. The Lesser Kestrel (*Falco naumanni*) has also been the subject of a preservation and reintroduction programme in La Crau and Roussillon, where population numbers have risen substantially as a result.

An Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) protection programme has been successfully launched (protected breeding grounds, installation of nest boxes), and there are now more than 50 pairs of these birds in France (mainland and Corsica).

Furthermore, a National Action Plan has been introduced, which includes specific protection measures and financial and human resources to protect, manage and monitor more than 10 species. These include four Category 1 species as listed in the MoU action plan: Eurasian Black Vulture, Egyptian Vulture, Red Kite and Lesser Kestrel.

Several of France's regional nature parks have also taken action to protect raptors.

Q. Have any co-ordinated raptor monitoring and research programmes been carried out in your Country to establish population trends, impacts of threats on raptors and to identify measures for their conservation and sustainable management? Please summarise completed and planned activities.

Yes. Raptor species are covered by a national action plan. An atlas of nesting birds in France is currently under development and is scheduled for completion in 2014. It will provide an accurate overview of nesting raptor numbers in France. Furthermore, many species are the subject of regular monitoring and detailed surveys to determine exact population numbers and gain a greater understanding of their biology, with a particular focus on migratory species.

Q. Have any awareness-raising activities been carried out about birds of prey, the threats that they face, and the measures that need to be taken to conserve them in your Country? Please summarise completed and planned activities.

Yes. A vast number of awareness-raising campaigns have been conducted about raptor preservation among the general public. These campaigns have targeted a wide spectrum of different audiences, with a special emphasis on educating young people and school pupils. These campaigns have been conducted by a variety of different organisations and bodies, including the French Ministry for Ecology, protected area managers, NGOs and local authorities.

Q. Additional comments concerning the implementation of the Raptors MoU in your Country. Please use this space to highlight any major raptor conservation successes or concerns. Please list any specific needs for support to assist effective implementation in your Country.

Raptors are undoubtedly one of the best protected groups of species in France at present. Nevertheless, a number of problems remain:

- infrastructure development and poor forest management have led to the fragmentation of the habitats of forest species
- the use of anticoagulants such as Bromadiolone to control rodent populations has led to the death of a large number of Red Kites (*Milvus milvus*).

GERMANY

Compiler: Mr. Oliver Schall, Ministry for the Environment (BMU)



Q. Are birds of prey species fully protected from all forms of unlawful killing (including poisoning, shooting, persecution), and unsustainable exploitation in your Country?

Yes, Bundesnaturschutzgesetz (bnATsCHg) 29.7.2009 [transposing the EC Birds Directive 79/409/EEC now: Directive 2009/147/EC], and Bundesjagdgesetz (BJagdG) 29.9.1976 (last change 6.12.2011) including respective ordinances and the respective legislation of the 16 German "Länder"

Q. Have important raptor sites (e.g. where Category 1 species breed) and migration bottlenecks been identified, protected and managed for their benefit in your Country?

Yes. Germany has classified the most suitable territories in number and size as special protection areas (SPAs) for the conservation of those Category 1 species naturally present in Germany (in accordance with Art. 4 of the EC Birds Directive -cf. above). These sites are protected and managed under the auspices of the German Bundesländer, which have a margin of discretion to add further sites of importance for Raptors under their "Länder" legislation and competence.

Q. Have important raptor habitats been identified and are being managed sustainably in your Country?

Yes. Germany has classified the most suitable territories in number and size as special protection areas for the conservation of raptors in accordance with Art. 4 of the EC Birds Directive (cf. above). This includes the sustainable management of the SPAs (or further sites designated and protected by the German Länder).

Q. Have any species protection or management programmes (including artificial nest schemes, sustainable harvest or reintroductions) been carried out in your Country? Please summarise completed and planned activities.

Yes. A wide bunch of measures have taken place since decades to protect or to reintroduce birds of prey in Germany. In particular successful was the reintroduction of *Bubo bubo* and *Falco peregrinus* in huge areas where they disappeared earlier. Protection measures for eyries of e.g. ospreys or sea

eagles were helpful to guarantee a sufficient protection of the populations. Artificial nest schemes are common in Germany in particular for the protection of *Athene noctua*. The nest of *Aegolius funereus* / tengmalms owls are in some parts of Germany protected by metal collars against martens. Raptors are completely protected in Germany and therefore not "harvested".

Q. Have any co-ordinated raptor monitoring and research programmes been carried out in your Country to establish population trends, impacts of threats on raptors and to identify measures for their conservation and sustainable management? Please summarise completed and planned activities.

Yes. A huge variety of projects for Raptors were undertaken in Germany. Two examples might be of special interest: The Federal Government and the German Länder have created a jointly financed and continuous Bird monitoring project, which covers raptors too. Current projects concerning effects of wind energy plants include research concerning threats on raptors.

Q. Have any awareness-raising activities been carried out about birds of prey, the threats that they face, and the measures that need to be taken to conserve them in your Country? Please summarise completed and planned activities.

Yes. In particular German NGOs were active for certain Birds of Prey like e.g. *Aquila pomarina*. However Federal Government and German Länder too are engaged in awareness raising for nature protection (including raptors and their habitats).

Q. Additional comments concerning the implementation of the Raptors MoU in your Country. Please use this space to highlight any major raptor conservation successes or concerns. Please list any specific needs for support to assist effective implementation in your Country.

Concerns: Illegal activities like catching of birds or poisoning of raptors are a reason of concern. Further joint activities of information exchange, what should be done and what could be done, to minimize these risks appear useful. Illegal hunting during migration is a further concern, which should be diminished with the help of the raptors MoU.

Successes: Voltage lines might be an electrocution risk especially for the birds of prey with large wings. Germany has good experiences -legally and technically - how this problem can be tackled.

GHANA

Compiler: Mr. Nana Kofi Adu-Nsiah, Executive Director,
Forestry Commission Wildlife Division



Q. Are birds of prey species fully protected from all forms of unlawful killing (including poisoning, shooting, persecution), and unsustainable exploitation in your Country?

Yes. Wildlife Conservation Regulations, 1971 L.I. 685. All birds of prey are completely protected.

Q. Have important raptor sites (e.g. where Category 1 species breed) and migration bottlenecks been identified, protected and managed for their benefit in your Country?

No. No specific sites have been identified, protection and managed but are protected in landscapes by the provisions of LI 685.

Q. Have important raptor habitats been identified and are being managed sustainably in your Country?

No.

Q. Have any species protection or management programmes (including artificial nest schemes, sustainable harvest or reintroductions) been carried out in your Country? Please summarise completed and planned activities.

No.

Q. Have any co-ordinated raptor monitoring and research programmes been carried out in your Country to establish population trends, impacts of threats on raptors and to identify measures for their conservation and sustainable management? Please summarise completed and planned activities.

No.

Q. Have any awareness-raising activities been carried out about birds of prey, the threats that they face, and the measures that need to be taken to conserve them in your Country? Please summarise completed and planned activities.

Yes. Posters of some birds of prey for awareness creation in school and communities have been developed.

Q. Additional comments concerning the implementation of the Raptors MoU in your Country. Please use this space to highlight any major raptor conservation successes or concerns. Please list any specific needs for support to assist effective implementation in your Country.

We are yet to develop our action plans, further research and monitoring programmes will be required. Funding for awareness creation, research.

HUNGARY

Compiler: Mr. András Schmidt, Deputy Head of Department for
Nature Conservation, Ministry of Rural Development



Q. Are birds of prey species fully protected from all forms of unlawful killing (including poisoning, shooting, persecution), and unsustainable exploitation in your Country?

Yes. Act No. 53 of 1996 on Nature Conservation, Decree No. 13 of 2001 of the Minister of Environment on the list of protected species.

Q. Have important raptor sites (e.g. where Category 1 species breed) and migration bottlenecks been identified, protected and managed for their benefit in your Country?

Yes. 9.9 % of the country enjoys national protection, and 21.39% of the country enjoys Natura 2000 status. About 15% of the country is Special Protection Area designated for bird protection under the Birds Directive and covering all important raptor sites.

Q. Have important raptor habitats been identified and are being managed sustainably in your Country?

Yes. The most important sites have been identified and enjoy protection as described above. Management of the sites varies, much of this area is in state ownership.

Q. Have any species protection or management programmes (including artificial nest schemes, sustainable harvest or reintroductions) been carried out in your Country? Please summarise completed and planned activities.

Yes. One successful LIFE projects carried out for the Saker Falcon, one successful LIFE+ project for the Red-footed Falcon and one for the Imperial Eagle. One LIFE+ project is running each for the Saker Falcon and for the Imperial Eagle (HELICON). The Inaccessible Sky programme is carried out mainly

to protect raptors from electrocution (as well as other birds, also from collision), to minimise the number of accidents by 2020. No sustainable harvest (no harvest of raptors at all), reintroduction schemes only on a minor scale, locally (ex situ breeding of injured raptors and release of offspring).

Q. Have any co-ordinated raptor monitoring and research programmes been carried out in your Country to establish population trends, impacts of threats on raptors and to identify measures for their conservation and sustainable management? Please summarise completed and planned activities.

Yes. BirdLife Hungary/MME organises a coordinated raptor monitoring annually together with national park directorates, and this monitoring also contributes to the identification of threats and necessary conservation measures. The above-mentioned LIFE projects also included such research and monitoring.

Q. Have any awareness-raising activities been carried out about birds of prey, the threats that they face, and the measures that need to be taken to conserve them in your Country? Please summarise completed and planned activities.

Yes. See the websites of the mentioned LIFE projects. The Accessible Sky programme is also partly an awareness-raising programme, specifically targeted towards the electricity sector. Satellite-tracking of raptors and web camera observation of raptor nests are particularly popular.

Q. Additional comments concerning the implementation of the Raptors MoU in your Country. Please use this space to highlight any major raptor conservation successes or concerns. Please list any specific needs for support to assist effective implementation in your Country.

The various species action plans (national and international) elaborated partly by Hungarian experts, the above mentioned LIFE projects and the Accessible Sky programme are some of the major successes in the country. Illegal poisoning and to a lesser degree shooting is a major concern, however (one of the themes of the HELICON LIFE project).

MADAGASCAR

Compiler: Dr. Lily Arison Rene De Roland,
National Director of the Peregrine Fund Project



Q. Are birds of prey species fully protected from all forms of unlawful killing (including poisoning, shooting, persecution), and unsustainable exploitation in your Country?

No. 1. CITES, 2. CDB

Q. Have important raptor sites (e.g. where Category 1 species breed) and migration bottlenecks been identified, protected and managed for their benefit in your Country?

No. Since 2003, very few new protected areas have been created in Madagascar in addition to those created prior to this date. However, raptor species – especially migratory species – are mostly found outside protected areas. As such, these species are under threat; the majority of the Madagascan population is unaware of their protected status or the importance of these species. The Peregrine Fund, which I work for, is the only specific bird of prey project in the country; however the area it is able to cover is limited due to a lack of funding, making it difficult to conduct raptor conservation activities.

Q. Have important raptor habitats been identified and are being managed sustainably in your Country?

No. We only have detailed information about raptor species on those sites where the Peregrine Fund has worked. These sites, however, are well-managed. A number of additional sites have been identified, but are not managed.

Q. Has any species protection or management programmes (including artificial nest schemes, sustainable harvest or reintroductions) been carried out in your Country? Please summarise completed and planned activities.

Yes. Such programmes have been carried out for Madagascar's indigenous, endangered species. However, we do not build artificial nests or carry out reintroduction programmes. We have already tried to use the Hacking system to save critically endangered species, and with some success. Some species have also been the subject of a monitoring system.

Q. Have any co-ordinated raptor monitoring and research programmes been carried out in your Country to establish population trends, impacts of threats on raptors and to identify measures for their conservation and sustainable management? Please summarise completed and planned activities.

Yes. We have conducted biological and ecological surveys of several species, giving us information about their natural history, including the threats that each species in question faces. The Osprey – a critically endangered species in Madagascar – is the subject of an annual monitoring programme covering key areas such as nesting grounds. There is also a monitoring programme, conducted every five years, across the entire country.

Q. Have any awareness-raising activities been carried out about birds of prey, the threats that they face, and the measures that need to be taken to conserve them in your Country? Please summarise completed and planned activities.

Yes. We have carried out awareness-raising campaigns in the areas that we cover, and in other places that I have visited.

Q. Additional comments concerning the implementation of the Raptors MoU in your Country. Please use this space to highlight any major raptor conservation successes or concerns. Please list any specific needs for support to assist effective implementation in your Country.

At present, our raptor conservation and research work forms part of a broader bird of prey project, run by biologists. I am confident that joint efforts between the project and the Ministry for the Environment, with the support of CMS, will help to improve our raptor species conservation efforts in Madagascar.

MONACO

Compiler: M. Bruno Blanchy, Director, Natural Heritage Division,
Directorate for the Environment



Q. Are birds of prey species fully protected from all forms of unlawful killing (including poisoning, shooting, persecution), and unsustainable exploitation in your Country?

Yes.

- Order of 1 October 1880 on the prohibition of hunting.
- Article 390 of the Penal Code concerning offences against animals, which makes it illegal to kill or harm animals.
- Law 622 of 05/11/1956 concerning civil aviation: (fly-overs require ministerial authorisation - aerial photographs forbidden without ministerial approval)

Q. Have important raptor sites (e.g. where Category 1 species breed) and migration bottlenecks been identified, protected and managed for their benefit in your Country?

Yes. Part of the south-western face of the Rock of Monaco sea cliff was identified as an occasional breeding ground for Peregrine Falcons in 2010 and previously for Lesser Kestrels (without accurate data).

As this site is in an urbanised area, it is regularly monitored by ornithologists, who conducted a census of Monaco's avian population in 2010 and 2011.

A media campaign was run to highlight the importance of nesting sites and the precautions that should be taken to avoid disturbing these sites. The report on the 2012 avian population census details the on-site investigations that have been conducted and sets out a range of management measures that need to be taken in line with the forthcoming adoption of the Environmental Code.

Hunting and poaching are strictly forbidden by law. It is also against the law to fly over Monaco or to take aerial photos. (see above).

The CITES Convention is rigorously applied, affording additional protection against attempts to poach birds of prey for commercial gain.

The cliff sites on the Rock of Monaco are closed to public access and are monitored by the police, who patrol the Rock on regular basis.

Limits have recently been placed on the lighting and illumination of the facades of the Palace and the Rock in order to prevent harm to the animal species that live on the Rock cliffs. It is forbidden to shine light directly onto the cliffs unless special permission is obtained.

Q. Have important raptor habitats been identified and are being managed sustainably in your Country?

Yes. The Peregrine Falcon nesting grounds on the south-western cliff face of the Rock have been identified and are regularly monitored by the ornithologists who conducted the census of Monaco's avian population in 2010 and 2011.

A detailed assessment of food remains at the site has provided an insight into the feeding behaviour of the Peregrine Falcons that frequent this coastal site, which is located some 40 metres above sea level. In Monaco, the Peregrine Falcon is able to find the undisturbed environment that it needs to breed: both hunting and poaching are strictly forbidden. The police have the power to stop photographers and other people attempting to access the site, and the cliffs are out of bounds to the public.

Q. Has any species protection or management programmes (including artificial nest schemes, sustainable harvest or reintroductions) been carried out in your Country? Please summarise completed and planned activities.

No. The Environmental Code is currently being adopted, however, and this may lead to the introduction of Royal Orders covering the management and protection of species and natural habitats in the near future.

Q. Have any co-ordinated raptor monitoring and research programmes been carried out in your Country to establish population trends, impacts of threats on raptors and to identify measures for their conservation and sustainable management? Please summarise completed and planned activities.

No. These types of programme are not applicable to Monaco, given its limited size (2 km²).

Q. Have any awareness-raising activities been carried out about birds of prey, the threats that they face, and the measures that need to be taken to conserve them in your Country? Please summarise completed and planned activities.

Yes. Communication campaigns have been conducted to highlight Peregrine Falcon nesting events; however these events remain relatively rare in Monaco. The individual birds that frequent Monaco use a different breeding ground, at La Tête de Chien in France.

Various communication events are used to raise awareness among the public about bird species, including raptors; one such example was an ornithological sea trip organised as part of the Journées du Patrimoine heritage event on 16 October 2011.

Monaco also publishes an annual brochure, entitled "L'Environnement en Principauté de Monaco" (The Environment in the Principality of Monaco) and conducts a biennial data collection campaign; both of these measures help to raise awareness among the public about the government's policy, biodiversity censuses and the importance of biodiversity conservation.

Q. Additional comments concerning the implementation of the Raptors MoU in your Country. Please use this space to highlight any major raptor conservation successes or concerns. Please list any specific needs for support to assist effective implementation in your Country.

The Peregrine Falcon and the Lesser Kestrel only rarely breed in Monaco, and it would appear that these individuals also breed at La Tête de Chien in France.

Due to the small size of the country (2 km²), Monaco is primarily a passing and observation point; in this respect, one possible idea would be to create a cross-border observation and protection network for migrating bird species.

PAKISTAN

Compiler: Mr. Umeed Khalid, Conservator Wildlife, Ministry of Climate Change



Q. Are birds of prey species fully protected from all forms of unlawful killing (including poisoning, shooting, persecution), and unsustainable exploitation in your Country?

Yes.

1. Punjab Wildlife (Protection, Preservation, Conservation and Management) Act, 1974 (Amended 1991)
2. Sindh Wildlife (Protection, Preservation, Conservation and Management) Ordinance, 1972.
3. NWFP Wildlife (Protection, Preservation, Conservation and Management) Act, 1975.
4. Balochistan Wildlife (Protections, Preservation, Conservation and Management) Act, 1974.
5. Northern Areas (Gilgit Baltistan) Wildlife (Protections, Preservation, Conservation and Management) Act, 1975.
6. Azad Jammu and Kashmir Wildlife (Protections, Preservation, Conservation and Management) Act, 1975.
7. Islamabad Wildlife (Protections, Preservation, Conservation and Management) Ordinance 1979.

Q. Have important raptor sites (e.g. where Category 1 species breed) and migration bottlenecks been identified, protected and managed for their benefit in your Country?

Yes. A network of protected areas has been established under the Provincial/Territorial Wildlife laws. These include 26 National Parks, 96 Wildlife Sanctuaries and 93 Game Reserve, covering an area of 14,613,490 hectares. The protected areas particularly the National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries fully protect all wildlife species including raptors.

Q. Have important raptor habitats been identified and are being managed sustainably in your Country?

Yes. Some protected areas are famous wintering habitat for raptor species. These include Kirthar national Park (Sindh) and Hingol National Park (Balochistan), Lal Sohanra National Park (Punjab), Deosai National Park (Gilgit Baltistan) and Chitral Gol National Park (Khyber Pakhtunkhawa).

Q. Have any species protection or management programmes (including artificial nest schemes, sustainable harvest or reintroductions) been carried out in your Country? Please summarise completed and planned activities.

No.

Q. Have any co-ordinated raptor monitoring and research programmes been carried out in your Country to establish population trends, impacts of threats on raptors and to identify measures for their conservation and sustainable management? Please summarise completed and planned activities.

No.

Q. Have any awareness-raising activities been carried out about birds of prey, the threats that they face, and the measures that need to be taken to conserve them in your Country? Please summarise completed and planned activities.

Yes. A number of posters and other material have been developed to indicate the importance of raptor species and their ecological role in ecosystem.

Q. Additional comments concerning the implementation of the Raptors MoU in your Country. Please use this space to highlight any major raptor conservation successes or concerns. Please list any specific needs for support to assist effective implementation in your Country.

A new law "The Pakistan Trade Control of Wild fauna and Flora Act 2012 has been approved at Federal Level. The implementation of this new legislation will help to curb the illegal trade of raptors and other CITES listed species.

ROMANIA

Compiler: Dr. Nela Miauta, Ministry of Environment and Forests



Q. Are birds of prey species fully protected from all forms of unlawful killing (including poisoning, shooting, persecution), and unsustainable exploitation in your Country?

Yes. The largest part of the governmental responsibilities for nature protection and management belong to the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MEF) and the environmental agencies affiliated with the MEF. The Commission for the Protection of Nature Monuments of the Romanian Academy is the legal scientific authority for nature conservation and protected areas. Romania is a Contracting Party to international conventions and agreements related to bird of prey conservation:

- Biological Diversity Convention (Rio de Janeiro) – ratified by Law 58/1994
- The Convention on Migratory Species (Bonn) – ratified by Law no. 13/1998
- Convention on the International Trade with Endangered Species (Washington) – ratified by Law 69/1994
- Convention for the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern) – ratified by Law 13/1993

According to Art. 11 of the Romanian Constitution, all international treaties ratified by Romania's Parliament become part of the internal legislation. Romanian legislation transposed the provisions of the two Directives (Birds and Habitats) through Government Emergency Ordinance No. 57/2007 on the regime of protected natural habitats, conservation of natural habitats of flora and fauna approved with amendments by Law No. 49/2011, the Minister Order No. 2387/2011 on the establishment of protected natural area regime for the sites of community importance and by Decision No. 971/2011 regarding the declaration of Special protection areas as integrant parts of the European Ecological Network "Nature 2000" in Romania. We take in consideration the strengthening the application of legal protection for birds of prey by ensuring appropriate penalties and raising public awareness to boost surveillance and reporting of illegal activities. There is a need to review relevant legislation organizing a working group for improvement the legal protection of bird of prey species.

Q. Have important raptor sites (e.g. where Category 1 species breed) and migration bottlenecks been identified, protected and managed for their benefit in your Country?

Yes. During the period 2010-2013 is implementing the LIFE+ project “Conservation of *Aquila pomarina* in Romania”. The main goal of monitoring and research was to improve our knowledge about the distribution and status of breeding birds in Romania.

The objectives of this project are:

- Monitoring of the (potentially) important bird areas by the mist-netting method;
- Development of database which will serve in planning on scientific base the activities of protection;
- To continue the long-term project about the breeding biology of the nesting birds, in order to determine the factors which affect the dynamics of these birds;
- Monitoring and ringing camps in Transylvania county;
- Two nest-box colonies established in a coniferous mountain region (Gurghiu Mountains, 141 nest boxes) and in a deciduous woodland area (Stana village, 140 nest boxes).

In the last years, the ornithologists of the Milvus Group - Bird and Nature Protection Association worked on the *Falco cherrug* conservation LIFE+ project expansively examined the suitable natural nests for Saker Falcons occurring in the Western part of Romania. The results show that the lack of such nests is one of the most important limiting factors for Sakers to inhabit these regions.

Q. Have important raptor habitats been identified and are being managed sustainably in your Country?

Yes. Some important projects were implemented for identify the raptors habitats and for their sustainable management:

- The project "Status and distribution of three raptor species in Western Romania, EU financed by BOU, 2005;
- The project, EU Partnership for the Conservation of flagship raptors in the South Western Carpathians, EU financed by the Environmental Partnership Foundation from Miercurea-Ciuc and by the Royal Netherlands Embassy from Romania in 2007;
- The LIFE+ project, EU Conservation of *Falco cherrug* in North-East Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia, EU, during the period 2011-2014

The objectives of these projects were:

- To help and support the establishment of the Natura 2000 Network, by proposing new sites;
- To raise awareness on the Natura 2000 issue on different levels - among important stakeholders, farmers, foresters, etc.;
- To lobby for better involvement of NGOs in Natura 2000 establishment and the management process;
- To influence policy makers at national and local level for giving higher priority to biodiversity conservation;
- To identify and monitor the threats of human activities affecting Natura 2000 sites with birds of prey;
- To increase the number of Special Protected Areas important for raptor species;

One of the most relevant cross border cooperation projects is the EU, Romanian-Hungarian corridor for the biodiversity conservation, EU financed through PHARE CBC Program. This corridor for biodiversity conservation was created between the Apuseni National Park, the protected areas Rădvani Forest and Cefa lake in Romania and Koros-Maros National Park in Hungary, having as objectives biodiversity conservation and development of ecotourism and educational cross border projects.

The methodology of *Falco cherrug* habitat study was developed by the LIFE06 NAT/H/000096 project which has been translated and adapted into Romanian and Bulgarian language.

Q. Have any species protection or management programmes (including artificial nest schemes, sustainable harvest or reintroductions) been carried out in your Country? Please summarise completed and planned activities.

Yes.

- Implementing the Red Footed Falcon conservation programme in the Western plains of Romania;
- Implementing the project Lesser Spotted Eagle, Flagship species for the Carpathians - 2005;
- Implementing the project “Saker *Falco cherrug* survey in Dobrogea, 2007”
- Implementing direct conservation programs for different species (ex. Red Footed Falcon, Golden Eagle, Kestrel etc);
- Mounting of artificial nests for Saker Falcon in the Western part of Romania;
- By DANUBEPARKS project “Danube Protected Areas Network - Development and Implementation of Transnational Strategies for the Preservation of Danube Natural Heritage” was improved the emblematic species preservation in the protected Danube natural areas, including White-tailed Eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*), considered endangered species.

During the period 2009-2011 Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority were implemented the project “Achievement services, installation and maintenance of artificial nests for the White-tailed Eagle on the territory of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve”, and the project “Monitoring services, by ringing, of the White-tailed Eagle’s distribution (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) within the territory of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve”.

Q. Have any co-ordinated raptor monitoring and research programmes been carried out in your Country to establish population trends, impacts of threats on raptors and to identify measures for their conservation and sustainable management? Please summarise completed and planned activities.

Yes.

- Monitoring of Golden Eagle and Peregrine Falcon populations in Romania during the period 2001-2010;
- Monitoring the raptor migration at the Macin Watchsite, during the period 2002-2007;
- Implementing the “Wintering Birds of Prey Monitoring Programme”, 2006-2010;
- Research on the bird-powerline relationship in order to make the Romanian electricity network wildlife friendly. ”Monitoring services, by ringing, of the White-tailed Eagle’s distribution (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) within the territory of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve”, 2009-2011.

The objectives were:

- to force electricity companies do the mitigation work;
- to control the future placement of Wind Turbines;
- to identify the “hot-spots” in matter of electrocution and collision in the country (most problematic areas and pylons);
- to propose cost effective solutions for the mitigation of the problem in Romania, in collaboration with electricity companies – based on experience of other countries;
- to place artificial nests on high-voltage power-lines.

It was signed an agreement with the local Electricity Company from Târgu-Mureş to collaborate in finding the solutions for mitigation of electrocution;

Each year the raptors undertake long distance migratory movements. Raptors migrate in response to the fluctuations in food supplies. European migrants are wintering in Africa, Southern Europe and some of them in the Middle East. The most known migration routes are: Southern Scandinavian corridor, Eastern Baltic corridor, Trans Iberian corridor, Central Mediterranean corridor, Via Pontica (Western Black Sea corridor) and Trans Caucasian corridor.

For energy efficiency raptors use the upraising warm air (thermal) for soaring flight and deflected air (updrafts) for gliding. Typical soaring birds are the Buzzards and Eagles while the flapping and gliding flight is characteristic for Accipiters and Falcons. According to the migratory behavior, there are three types of raptors: complete migrants (more than 90% of population leave the breeding range), partial migrants (less than 90% of population leave the breeding range) and local migrants (movements are less predictable and regular than those of partial migrants).

The Măcin watchsite, located in the North of Dobrogea county, belongs to the Via Pontica migration route. The landscape here offers excellent conditions for thermal formation on sunny days and strong updrafts in windy days, especially when the wind is from NE or NW.

The agricultural fields and pastures offers good feeding conditions and the nearby forest is used as roosting place for the late arriving birds.

- Implementing the LIFE+ project “Conservation of *Aquila pomarina* in Romania”, LIFE08NAT/RO/000501, 2010-2013;
- Implementing the LIFE+ project “Conservation of *Falco cherrug* in North-East Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia” LIFE09NAT/HU/000384, 2011-2014;
- The LIFE06 NAT/H/000096 project aims to transfer the knowledge and experiences of Hungarian and Slovak partners to Romanian and Bulgarian partners and help them to implement the best practices of *Falco cherrug* conservation. At the same time, the project also aims to eliminate some endangering threat in the core area;
- An assessment of the effects of current agricultural subsidies and related habitat management practices on *Falco cherrug*'s habitat in Romania and Bulgaria applying the Hungarian–Slovak methods is ongoing. GIS will be established containing map files of habitats incorporating up to date land cover and prey data;
- Undertake Environment Impact Assessments in accordance with the CBD guidelines;
- Support the cross-border exchanges between environmental NGOs experts in order to strengthen cooperation and partnership in biodiversity's monitoring, in terms of environmental performance and towards regional sustainable development.

Q. Have any awareness-raising activities been carried out about birds of prey, the threats that they face, and the measures that need to be taken to conserve them in your Country? Please summarise completed and planned activities.

Yes. “Milvus Group” Bird and Nature Protection Association organized the 3rd Romanian Ornithological Marathon, which took place at Cefa Fishponds during the period 19-21 October 2012. The 4th International Milvus Nature Photography Contest was organized on 14 October 2012.

- Publish a series of awareness raising leaflets and a technical guide for raptor protection;
- Organize several workshops on specific raptor conservation issues;
- The main goal of the environmental education is to involve as many citizens as possible (accentuated attention on youth) in active nature conservation.

The objectives are:

- To develop national network of schools and universities in order to provide volunteers in nature conservation;
- To implement education materials for optional nature conservation lessons in schools
- To change of negative attitude of different social groups towards raptors in general or towards certain species;
- Establishment of good working relations with the local Environmental Protection Agencies, Forestry Authorities and the Hunting Associations;
- Publishing two special posters emphasizing on different aspects of wildlife crime with special target groups;
- Publishing awareness raising materials, newspaper articles about wildlife crime;
- Organizing several workshops on specific raptor conservation issues;

We developed educational material for several types of presentations about importance of different habitats, birds groups, fieldwork methods for bird's protection etc. In the last years we carried out more than 170 slide shows, field activities and other events for children and students. 2000 copies of Romanian/Hungarian leaflets were prepared. The governmental agencies and the NGOs responded to the call and organized events making the International Vulture Awareness Day a great success. These events varied from bird watching tours and educational workshops to dramas, exhibitions and film competitions held everywhere.

World Environment Day, World Migratory Bird Day celebration were organized by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, the Local Environmental Protection Agencies, the Romanian Ornithological Society, and schools.

The national environment awareness campaign was launched by the Ministry of Environment and Forests aims to create awareness on environmental issues, among a wide group of stakeholders. Several NGOs, educational institutions, professional organisations and the National Environment Protection Agency participated in the campaign.

Q. Additional comments concerning the implementation of the Raptors MoU in your Country. Please use this space to highlight any major raptor conservation successes or concerns. Please list any specific needs for support to assist effective implementation in your Country.

Activities planned for the next year:

- Preparing the National Raptor Conservation and Management Strategy;
- Preparing the raptors MoU Action Plan;
- Monitoring of raptor populations, carry out conservation research;
- Elaborating the inventory of the conservation status of raptors;
- Increase public participation in decision-making processes
- Raise awareness of problems faced by raptors and measures for their conservation;
- Taking into account the needs of birds of prey conservation in sectors and related policies such as agriculture, forestry, energy, pesticide and tourism.

SLOVAKIA

Compilers: Mr. Jan Kadlecik and Mr. Michal Adamec,
State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic



Q. Are birds of prey species fully protected from all forms of unlawful killing (including poisoning, shooting, persecution), and unsustainable exploitation in your Country?

Yes. All birds of prey are fully protected by the nature conservation law – Act on nature and landscape protection No. 543/2002 Coll. (as last amended); the Act is executed through the Decree of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic No. (as last amended); the trade is regulated by the Act No. 15/2004 Coll. on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein (as last amended); the Act is executed through the Decree of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic No. 110/2005 Coll. Implementing some provisions of the Act (as last amended).

The Act No. 274/2009 Coll. on hunting (as last amended) allows using of some species for falconry and provides rules for falconry; *Accipiter gentilis*, *Buteo buteo*, *Buteo lagopus* (Category 3 species of Raptors MoU Action Plan) are included in the list of game species, but are protected and their use needs permission also according to nature conservation law.

This legislation deals with protection, prevention of negative effects (including killing, poisoning, shooting, persecution, disturbance, collection of eggs etc.), unsustainable exploitation etc.

Q. Have important raptor sites (e.g. where Category 1 species breed) and migration bottlenecks been identified, protected and managed for their benefit in your Country?

Yes. Important raptor sites were identified during preparation of EU Natura 2000 network and they are protected and managed in 34 designated Special Protection Areas according to the EU Birds directive (Protected Bird Areas according to the Slovak legislation), more at www.sopsr.sk.

Q. Have important raptor habitats been identified and are being managed sustainably in your Country?

Yes. See above. There is a system of 9 national parks, 14 protected landscape areas and more than 1000 small-scale protected areas, most of them are important raptor habitats. EU Birds directive is applied in 34 SPAs designated for raptors habitats conservation.

Q. Have any species protection or management programmes (including artificial nest schemes, sustainable harvest or reintroductions) been carried out in your Country? Please summarise completed and planned activities.

Yes. Raptors species and management is included in the tasks of the State Nature Conservancy (SNC) and its projects. SNC e.g. implements a project “Development of data for ensuring favourable conservation status of criteria bird species and their habitats”, which includes species of raptors; Slovakia participated in international ETC-SEE project “DANUBEPARKS”, where conservation actions (and Action Plan) for the White-tailed Eagle along the Danube River floodplain were included.

A number of projects of Raptor Protection of Slovakia (NGO) have been implemented with different partners and for various species within small grants programme for RPS members, EU ERDF Programme of transborder cooperation (e.g. Protection of raptors and owls in Zahorie region and in Niederosterreich; Protection and research of birds without borders – with the Slovak Ornithological Society/BirdLife Slovakia and MME/BirdLife Hungary); EU LIFE+ programme (Protection of Lesser Spotted Eagle in Slovakia; Protection of Saker Falcon in NE part of Bulgaria, in Hungary, Romania and in Slovakia; Protection of Imperial Eagle in the Slovak part of the Carpathians; Protection of Saker Falcon in the Carpathian basin); EEA and Norway grants (Implementation of Birds directive with emphasis on elimination of bird crime to populations of birds in Slovakia; Raptors and owls in a system of Special Protection Areas in Slovakia); projects with energy distribution companies to prevent conflicts with power lines and prevent electrocution; many short-term projects from different donors and on different species, see more at <http://www.dravce.sk>;

Projects of the Slovak Ornithological Society/BirdLife Slovakia (e.g. EU ERDF Programme of transborder cooperation project Protection of threatened bird species of Western Carpathians – with Poland; support of breeding, artificial nest schemes, sustainable use of Natura 2000 sites, etc.; BirdLife supported project for support of breeding of Red-footed Falcon – artificial nest boxes; project funded by Environmental Fund for support of birds breeding in holes in SPAs, etc.); more at www.vtaky.sk;

Cooperation of SNC and RPS in a project “Return of Golden eagle to the Czech Republic” funded from different sources.

A system of rescue stations for injured or handicapped birds exists in Slovakia (operating under governmental institutions and NGOs), some of them specialized in rehabilitation of birds of prey.

According to Slovak legislation – Act no. 54/2002 Coll. on Nature and landscape protection recognize “Rescue plan” for critically endangered species. These documents are commonly approved by the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic for the period of 5 years and are then implemented by the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic.

The list of approved plans, which were implemented in the mentioned period. After they were finished only, but still, some activities are in charge

- *Aquila heliaca* – implemented during 2001 - 2005
- *Aquila chrysaetos* – implemented during 2004 - 2008
- *Aquila pomarina* – implemented during 2004 - 2008
- *Falco peregrinus* – implemented during 2004 - 2008

- *Falco cherrug* – implemented during 2004 - 2008

Q. Have any co-ordinated raptor monitoring and research programmes been carried out in your Country to establish population trends, impacts of threats on raptors and to identify measures for their conservation and sustainable management? Please summarise completed and planned activities.

Yes. The raptors monitoring and conservation activities are a part of annual work plan of the national nature conservation agency (State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic); The project “Development of data for ensuring favourable conservation status of criteria bird species and their habitats”, funded from Structural funds, includes monitoring programme;

There is a monitoring and research programme of Raptor Protection of Slovakia (distribution, population trends, productivity of breeding pairs, threats, feeding ecology, important habitats) <http://www.dravce.sk>; Research results are published e.g. in Slovak Raptor Journal.

There is also monitoring and research program of the Slovak Ornithological Society/BirdLife Slovakia. Results are published in journal Tichodroma (www.vtaky.sk).

Q. Have any awareness-raising activities been carried out about birds of prey, the threats that they face, and the measures that need to be taken to conserve them in your Country? Please summarise completed and planned activities.

Yes. Most active in awareness activities are:

- State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic (activities are included in its annual work plan); Slovak Museum of Nature Conservation and Speleology (e.g. lectures, exhibitions); Zoological Garden in Bojnice;
- Raptor Protection of Slovakia RPS (Magazine Raptors and Owls; Educational programme of RPS on protection of raptors and owls; Project Identification of raptors and owls – manual and seminars for teachers etc., more information: <http://www.dravce.sk>);
- Slovak Ornithological Society/BirdLife Slovakia (educational programmes and projects, e.g. project Awareness raising in SPAs, magazine “Vtaky” (“Birds”), conferences, public birdwatching activities, etc.), more information: <http://www.vtaky.sk/>;
- Awareness-raising activities are included in most projects implemented by governmental and non-governmental organisations. Web page on Golden eagle (<http://www.orolskalny.sk>);

Q. Additional comments concerning the implementation of the Raptors MoU in your Country. Please use this space to highlight any major raptor conservation successes or concerns. Please list any specific needs for support to assist effective implementation in your Country.

Conservation successes – conservation and management of Golden Eagle; cooperation with energy distribution companies;

Concerns – poisoning, poaching, electrocution in some parts of the country, forest management;

UNITED KINGDOM

Compiler: Mr. David Stroud, Senior Ornithologist,
Joint Nature Conservation Committee



Q. Are birds of prey species fully protected from all forms of unlawful killing (including poisoning, shooting, persecution), and unsustainable exploitation in your Country?

Yes. 1981 Wildlife & Countryside Act (as amended) - for Great Britain only; Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 - for Scotland only; Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 as amended by the Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 - for Northern Ireland only

Q. Have important raptor sites (e.g. where Category 1 species breed) and migration bottlenecks been identified, protected and managed for their benefit in your Country?

Yes. Sites of national importance for raptors have been identified and are legally protected in Great Britain as Sites of Special Scientific Interest and in Northern Ireland as Areas of Special Scientific Interest.

Sites of international importance for ten species of raptors have been classified as Special Protection Areas under the EU Birds Directive. The location of these SPAs (and numbers of raptors they contain) are available as links from <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1419>. An update of the numbers within these SPAs is currently in preparation.

Q. Have important raptor habitats been identified and are being managed sustainably in your Country?

Yes. There are a wide range of different policies related to the management of landscapes outside protected areas. The details of these policies (which include agri-environment schemes) vary between the different component countries and provinces of the United Kingdom.

Q. Have any species protection or management programmes (including artificial nest schemes, sustainable harvest or reintroductions) been carried out in your Country? Please summarise completed and planned activities.

Yes. There are long-standing re-introduction schemes for *Haliaeetus albicilla* and *Milvus milvus*. Background to these schemes and recent status of these species is summarised at <http://www.rbbp.org.uk/downloads/rbbp-report-2007.pdf>.

A translocation programme for *Pandion haliaetus* was started in England in 1996 <http://www.ospreys.org.uk/osprey-facts/the-translocation-project/> leading to successful subsequent breeding at the release site.

Action Plans for other raptors (which summarise a range of habitat manage activities) are available at <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-5163>

A wide range of information about the status of UK raptors and their past and current management is available in the proceedings of a conference held in 2003 - 'Birds of prey in a changing environment': <http://www.tsoshop.co.uk/parliament/bookstore.asp?Action=Book&ProductId=9780114973087>

There are no sustainable harvest schemes for raptors in the UK. For raptors, the only use of artificial nests has been for *Pandion haliaetus*, and typically to encourage settlement in new areas as the population has spread within the UK in recent decades.

Q. Have any co-ordinated raptor monitoring and research programmes been carried out in your Country to establish population trends, impacts of threats on raptors and to identify measures for their conservation and sustainable management? Please summarise completed and planned activities.

Yes. Nationally, collation of records of the rarest species is undertaken by the Rare Breeding Birds Panel and the results are reported annually: <http://www.rbbp.org.uk/rbbp-reports.htm>. The population coverage of such assessments is incomplete for all than the rarest species.

Complete national surveys for most of the scarcer raptors are undertaken on a rolling 12 year cycle (staggered by species). These national surveys are co-funded by the UK statutory conservation agencies and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) under their SCARABBS agreement.

The results of these surveys are published as journal papers. Since 1994, monitoring of the commonest species has annually undertaken by the British Trust for Ornithology/RSPB/Joint Nature Conservation

Committee Breeding Birds Survey: <http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/bbs/bbs-publications/bbs-reports>.

A range of other monitoring schemes and programmes provides additional, valuable information on the status of trends of raptors at various scales. Detailed conservation frameworks - which integrate information on status, trends, habitat and threats - have been published for *Aquila chrysaetos* http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/publications/commissioned_reports/Report%20No193.pdf and *Circus cyaneus* <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/jncc441.pdf>.

Q. Have any awareness-raising activities been carried out about birds of prey, the threats that they face, and the measures that need to be taken to conserve them in your Country? Please summarise completed and planned activities.

Yes. There continue to be a wide range of education and awareness activities relevant to raptor conservation undertaken at a range of different scales within the UK. In particular, this concentrates on addressing issues raised by the continuing illegal persecution of some species.

Q. Additional comments concerning the implementation of the Raptors MoU in your Country. Please use this space to highlight any major raptor conservation successes or concerns. Please list any specific needs for support to assist effective implementation in your Country.

Concerns raised as to conflicts between birds of prey and various countryside interests were addressed by the Raptor Working Group. This group was Ministerially established in 1995 and reported in 2000: <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/raptors.pdf>.

Since then its recommendations concerning conflict resolution have been taken forward through a range of different initiatives in the different countries of the UK.