



# Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme



## MEETING TO CONCLUDE THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY BIRDS OF PREY IN AFRICA AND EURASIA UNDER THE CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES (CMS)

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 20-22 October 2008

### TEMPLATE<sup>1</sup> FOR IN-COUNTRY REPORT RELATING TO BASIC KEY ACTIONS AT NATIONAL LEVEL TO IMPLEMENT THE ACTION PLAN

#### 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

<p><b>1.1. Country:</b> Pakistan</p>
<p><b>1.2. Agency or institution that has been primarily responsible for the preparation of this</b> Forestry Wing, Ministry of Climate Change, Government of Pakistan, Islamabad</p>
<p><b>1.3. Provisional Focal Point responsible for Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia:</b> Muhammad Samar Hussain Khan (Mr.) Assistant Secretary (Wildlife) Forestry Wing, Ministry of Climate Change, Building, 14-D, Second Floor, Markaz F-8 Islamabad, Pakistan Tel: 0092-51-9262848 Fax: 0092-51-9262270 Email: <a href="mailto:samar_baloch@yahoo.com">samar_baloch@yahoo.com</a></p>
<p><b>1.4. Date submitted:</b> 14<sup>th</sup> November 2012</p>
<p><b>1.5. Period covered by the report:</b> November 2008 to date</p>
<p><b>1.6. List of other agencies or NGOs that have provided input to this report:</b> Provincial/territorial wildlife departments, Zoological Survey Department.</p>

<sup>1</sup> Unsolicited submission to the ICU of the Raptors MoU in advance of the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of Signatories.

## 2. Improvement of legal protection:

- 2.1. In general, please comment on the fact that
- (a) the legislation of your country protects all migratory birds of prey in principle
  - (b) the legislation is implemented on-the-ground

Wildlife management and conservation in Pakistan, is a provincial subject. The Provincial Governments have set up their Wildlife Departments, which conserve, protect and manage their wildlife under the provincial wildlife laws. However, policy formulation, coordination with international agencies, Conventions and coordination with Provincial/Territorial authorities is carried out at Federal level. Birds of prey are protected under the provincial wildlife laws. The protected birds can not be hunted, killed or captured.

According to the Federal Cabinet decision commercial export of protected birds, mammals and reptiles is banned. This decision is reflected in the Export Policy Order, according to which commercial export of the species; listed on CITES Appendix-I & II or protected under provincial wildlife laws is prohibited.

Moreover since 2005 export of Saker Falcon (*Falco cherrug*) is banned under a directive from the CITES Secretariat.

- 2.2. Please list all relevant legislations (laws, policies, decrees, etc.) that relate to the conservation of migratory birds of prey.

Following are Legislative Cover/Strategies and Policies for protection of migratory birds of prey in general:

- Pakistan Trade Control of Wild Fauna and Flora Act 2012
- Trade Policy, Customs Act (Export Policy Order)
- The Sindh Wildlife Protection Ordinance, 1972
- The Balochistan Wildlife Protection Act, 1974
- The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Wildlife (Protection, Preservation, Conservation and Management) Act, 1975
- The Gilgit-Baltistan Wildlife Preservation Act, 1975
- Azad Jammu & Kashmir Wildlife Act, 1975
- The Punjab Wildlife (Protection, Preservation, Conservation and Management) (Amendment) Act, 2007
- Islamabad Wildlife (Protection, Preservation, Conservation and Management) (Amendment) Act, 2008.
- The Pakistan Environmental Protection Act, 1997
- The Pakistan National Conservation Strategy (1992)
- Biodiversity Action Plan (2000)
- Provincial/territorial Conservation Strategies

- 2.3. Is there any legislation in your country that protects all migratory birds of prey from all forms of killing, and disturbance at nest sites and communal roost sites (particularly in wintering grounds), as well as from egg-collection and taking from the wild unless this can be shown to be sustainable?

Birds of prey (Whether migratory or resident) are protected under the provincial wildlife laws. The protected birds cannot be hunted, killed or captured.

For conservation and preservation of threatened species (including birds of prey) a system of protected areas has been established in the country. The protected areas provide safe habitat for the threatened species. In Pakistan total protected area comprise of more than 12% of the total area. The protected areas include the following categories:

- National Parks: 26
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: 92
- Game Reserves: 89
- Community Conservation Area: 114

2.4. Is there any legislation in your country that bans the use of exposed poison baits for predator control and those chemicals that have been shown to cause significant avian mortalities?

Under the provincial wildlife laws use of all cruel practices (e.g explosive projectiles, bomb or grenade, baited hooks etc) for hunting are prohibited.

2.5. Is there any legislation in your country that requires that all new power lines are designed to avoid migratory bird of prey electrocution?

According to the Pakistan Environmental Protection Act, 1997, Initial environmental examination or environmental impact assessment (EIA) of all projects is mandatory. In EIAs of new power line projects, their impacts on migratory bird (including birds of prey) are considered. CMS guidelines to avoid birds' electrocution are also recommended in all new power lines projects. However there is no exclusive legislation in this regard.

2.6. Are illegal activities adequately reported and punished with appropriate penalties?

Yes, provincial wildlife authorities in their respective jurisdictions intercept all illegal activities under the laws. For example; to curb illegal trade of Falcons strict measures have been undertaken. Various consignments of illegal Falcons have been intercepted and released in wild and the culprits have been fined under the law. Press clippings of some recent seizures of falcons may be seen by clicking on:

1. <http://tribune.com.pk/story/447149/being-smuggled-out-rare-falcons-trip-to-kuwait-cut-short-freed-in-pindi/>
2. <http://dawn.com/2012/11/07/bid-to-smuggle-falcons-foiled-2/>

2.7. Are efforts being made to address any gaps in the legislation of your country?

To address legal gaps in legislation provincial wildlife laws are being reviewed and amended. Recently a new law "The Pakistan Trade Control of Wild Fauna and Flora Act 2012" has been enacted. It is an exclusive law for effective enforcement of CITES provisions with the aim to bridge existing legal gaps in implementation of the convention. National Climate Change Policy and Action Plan" have been approved recently. Similarly "Pakistan National Wetlands Policy" is being finalized. Such policies

will address issues related to conservation of migratory bird (including birds of prey).

### **3. Protect and/or manage important sites and flyways**

- 3.1. Are there any sites designated as protected areas in your country taking into account migratory bird of prey conservation requirements?

So far Pakistan has designated 19 Ramsar Sites so far in the prime (wintering and staging) habitats of migratory birds. New sites are being evaluated for inclusion in the Ramsar list.

A number of protected areas have been established in the country. The protected areas provide safe habitat for the threatened species (including migratory birds of prey). In Pakistan total protected area comprise of more than 12% of the total area. The protected areas include the following categories:

- National Parks: 26
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: 92
- Game Reserves: 89
- Community Conservation Area: 114

- 3.2. Have assessments been conducted at important sites in your country in order to identify and address actual or potential causes of incidental mortality from human causes (including fire, laying poisons, pest spraying, power lines, wind turbines)? When and in which context of project or general framework?

Some studies were conducted by recently completed the Ministry of Climate Change's Pakistan Wetlands Programme in Indus River to assess pollution level. Bird mortality assessment with relation to power lines and wind turbines was also conducted at few sites.

### **4. Habitat conservation and sustainable management**

- 4.1. Are efforts being made, where feasible, to take necessary actions to ensure that existing power lines that pose the greatest risk to migratory birds of prey are modified to avoid migratory bird of prey electrocution?

CMS guidelines to avoid birds' electrocution are also recommended in all grid and power lines projects. But there is no exclusive legislation to modify the existing power lines.

- 4.2. Are efforts being made to take account of the needs of migratory bird of prey conservation in sectors and related policies such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries, industries, tourism, energy, chemicals and pesticides, inter alia in accordance with CBD Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity (CBD VII/12)? What are the obstacles?

In Pakistan so far there is no national conservation strategy exclusively for migratory birds of prey. However as raptors are integral part of biodiversity, the National Conservation Strategy (1992) and Biodiversity Action Plan of Pakistan (2000). These documents provide guidelines to assess the biodiversity and outline goals and objectives for its conservation and management. Recently a new law "The Pakistan

Trade Control of Wild Fauna and Flora Act 2012” has been enacted. It is an exclusive law for effective enforcement of CITES provisions with the aim to bridge existing legal gaps in implementation of the Convention. This act will also help us to address issues related to illegal trade in raptors (especially *Falco spp.*). Similarly “Pakistan National Wetlands Policy” and “National Climate Change Policy and Action Plan” are being finalized. Such policies will address issues related to conservation of migratory bird (including birds of prey).

**5. Raise awareness of problems faced by migratory birds of prey and measures needed to conserve them**

5.1. Are there any awareness programmes in your country that publicise the migrations undertaken by migratory birds of prey, their current status, the threats to them and actions that can be taken to conserve them and that are aimed at relevant sectors (such as forestry, agriculture, fisheries, energy, industry, transport), as well as at local communities?

- The year 2009 was celebrated as National Year of Environment.
- Wetlands Day & World migratory Birds Day were celebrated at National level and attract vast media coverage.
- Government of Pakistan supports awareness raising programmes arranged by NGOs like WWF-Pakistan, IUCN, Falcon Foundation International, Pakistan

5.2. Has your country organized or is planning to organize sub-regional and national training workshops to improve skills in the monitoring of migratory birds of prey?

Not now, possibly in future.

**6. Monitor migratory bird of prey populations, carry out conservation research and take appropriate measures**

6.1. Are there flyway-scale monitoring networks or are there any efforts being made to establish them?

Pakistan intends to attend the Meeting to Negotiate the Institutional And Legal Framework For the Central Asian Flyway in Abu Dhabi, during 12-13 December 2012. Follow up actions are expected after formal approval of the proposed institutional and legal framework.

6.2. In the affirmative, please describe the (planned) monitoring networks more in detail

NA

6.3. Does your country have a coordinated monitoring programme and monitoring protocols based on the monitoring network mentioned above?

Not now, possibly in future.

**7. Supporting measures**

- 7.1. Are there any single and/or multi-species action plans for globally threatened species, taking account of existing international plans and where necessary extending them to cover the entire African-Eurasian range of each species?

Not now, possibly in future.