

Second Meeting of Signatories | Trondheim, Norway, 5-8 October 2015

**PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE RAPTORS MOU AND/OR ITS ANNEXES:  
PROVISIONAL LIST OF IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS THAT ARE CURRENTLY KNOWN TO BE  
IMPORTANT CONGREGATORY BIRD OF PREY SITES IN AFRICA AND EURASIA  
(TABLE 3 OF ANNEX 3)**

*Prepared by the Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MoU*

1. At their first meeting (MoS1 held in December 2012), Signatories established a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and agreed a list of priority tasks for it to address in advance of the Second Meeting of Signatories (MoS2), amongst which was to review the list of sites set out in Table 3 of Annex 3 in the original text of the Raptors MoU (UNEP/CMS/Raptors/MOS2/Inf.1).
2. The review was carried out by TAG following the procedures established in its Terms of Reference (UNEP/CMS/Raptors/MOS2/Inf.2). BirdLife International (delegated by IUCN as Red List authority for birds) is represented on TAG and expertly led the review process under a contract let by the Coordinating Unit. The review by TAG was underpinned by the following approaches:
  - a) Since the original Table 3 of Annex 3 was drafted in 2008, considerable progress has been made in the identification of Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) in the African-Eurasian region.
  - b) Only IBAs within Range States and territories are recommended for inclusion if they qualify due to their importance for a species of migratory raptor currently listed in Annex 1 of the Raptors MoU, or if it is identified as a 'bottleneck' site for migrating raptors (under any IBA criterion).
  - c) For Member States of the European Union, Special Protection Areas (SPAs) defined under the EC Birds Directive that are relevant for migratory birds of prey have been identified and are proposed for inclusion in a revised Table 3.
3. In the original agreement text of the Raptors MoU, Table 3 of Annex 3 is entitled as '*Provisional list of Important Bird Areas that are currently known to be important congregatory bird of prey sites in Africa and Eurasia*'. And the list is prefaced by the clarification '*This indicative list should be treated as a minimum list of internationally important areas*'. The TAG proposals recommend a significantly more comprehensive list of sites to form an amended Table 3 of Annex 3 to the Raptors MoU.
4. In early August 2015, the Coordinating Unit circulated these TAG proposals to all 52 Signatories of the Raptors MoU. Signatories were invited to consider the TAG recommendations and to notify the Coordinating Unit of any errors or omissions by the end of August 2015. A Form for Signatories to propose additional internationally important sites for consideration for inclusion in Table 3 of Annex 3 was also included in the circulation.

5. The Coordinating Unit would like to thank the seven Signatories that submitted responses, namely Denmark, France, Hungary, Madagascar, Monaco, Sweden and the Syrian Arab Republic. All the replies received were supportive of the TAG proposals.

6. Two countries (Denmark and Sweden) highlighted potential overlaps between the lists of IBAs and SPAs. This reflects the situation in some cases so for clarification the sub-heading of Annex C (List of internationally important sites for migratory birds of prey in African and Eurasia [as at July 2015]) has been amended to include the following statements ...*'Some IBAs and SPAs overlap spatially, but the two site types are listed separately for clarity'*.

7. In addition, both Madagascar and the Syrian Arab Republic submitted separate lists of additional sites to be considered for inclusion in Table 3 of Annex 3 to the Raptors MoU. These proposals are under active consideration by TAG. Depending upon the outcome of these deliberations, it may necessary to publish a revised Table 3 of Annex 3 to the Raptors MoU in advance of MoS2.

**Action requested:**

The Meeting is requested to review and adopt the amendments proposed by TAG to the Provisional list of Important Bird Areas that are currently known to be important congregatory bird of prey sites in Africa and Eurasia (Table 3 of Annex 3) of the Raptors MoU.

## **Proposals from the Technical Advisory Group for amendments to Provisional list of Important Bird Areas that are currently known to be important congregatory bird of prey sites in Africa and Eurasia in Table 3 of Annex 3 of the Raptors MoU**

### **Introduction**

At the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of Signatories (MoS1) to the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors MoU), Signatories established a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and agreed a list of priority tasks for it to address in advance of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of Signatories (MoS2). As part of Activity 1: Improvement of Protection, Task 1.1 was 'To review the species list and sites list of the MoU, with part d) stating 'following consultations with the Signatories, make recommendations as to the updating of Table 3 of Annex 3 of the Action Plan listing internationally important sites for raptors'.

In the original text of the Raptors MoU, Table 3 of Annex 3<sup>1</sup> (2008) is entitled 'Provisional list of Important Bird Areas that are currently known to be important congregatory bird of prey sites in Africa and Eurasia'. The list comprises 135 Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs)<sup>2</sup> that qualified according to global and regional criteria for globally threatened species (IBA criterion A1) and congregations (IBA criteria A4iv or B1iv) of species listed on Annex 1 of the MoU. This list of 135 IBAs was intended to be an indicative rather than comprehensive site list and is prefaced by the clarification 'This indicative list should be treated as a minimum list of internationally important areas'.

At MoS1 in 2012, Information Document (Inf Doc) 13.3 'Update of scientific data underpinning the Raptors MoU'<sup>3</sup> included an updated draft Table 3 which was considerably longer and more comprehensive than the original Table 3 for two key reasons. Firstly, since the original Table 3 of Annex 3 was drafted in 2008 the BirdLife Partnership had made considerable progress in IBA identification in the African-Eurasian region. Secondly, instead of including only IBAs identified under A1, A4iv and B1iv criteria, Inf Doc 13.3 included all IBAs identified across the MoU Range States and territories that qualify because of their importance for a species listed in Annex 1 of the MoU, or are identified as a 'bottleneck' site for migrating raptors (under any IBA criterion).

### **Work undertaken by TAG since MoS1**

Established by the TAG and led by BirdLife International, a small Working Group has overseen the further updating of the draft Table 3 of Annex 3 (already shared at MoS1 as Annex 3 of Inf Doc 13.3) with the latest IBA data from BirdLife International. The revised Table 3 of Annex 3 (set out in Annex C of this document) has been based on the draft Annex 1 species list presented in Inf Doc 13.3, with the inclusion of the latest taxonomic and nomenclature updates<sup>4</sup> to bring it in line with the systematic proposals (del Hoyo and Collar 2014)<sup>5</sup> adopted at the 11<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties to CMS in November 2014<sup>6</sup>, but otherwise does not include any sites for species currently being proposed for addition to Annex 1 of the Raptors MoU. Additional sites that are important for any species that may be added to Annex 1 of the Raptors MoU by Signatories at the forthcoming MoS2 could be assessed and proposed for addition to Table 3 of Annex 2 at MoS3 of the Raptors MoU.

<sup>1</sup> [Raptors MoU \(2008\) Text, Table 3.](#)

<sup>2</sup> IBA identification and criteria are explained further in Annex A to this document.

<sup>3</sup> [CMS/Raptors/MoS1/Inf.13.3](#)

<sup>4</sup> Table A in document [UNEP/CMS/Raptors/MOS2/13.](#)

<sup>5</sup> The Handbook of the Birds of the World/BirdLife International Illustrated Checklist of the Birds of the World, edited by J. del Hoyo, N.J. Collar, D.A. Christie, A. Elliot and L.D.C. Fishpool, published in an illustrated checklist and online by Lynx Edicions in August 2014 (non-passerines), with passerines due in 2016.

(see <http://www.lynxeds.com/product/hbw-and-birdlife-international-illustrated-checklistbirds-world#brochure>)

<sup>6</sup> [UNEP/CMS/COP11/Inf.35](#)

At MoS1 it was noted that for European Union Member States, it would be important to add to Table 3 of Annex 3 relevant EC Natura 2000 'Special Protection Areas,' (SPAs), identified under Article 4 of the EU Birds Directive<sup>7</sup>. In order to make this refinement, the TAG Working Group has added to the proposed revised Table 3 of Annex 3 any SPAs identified as important for a species listed on Annex 1 of the MoU using the latest official Natura 2000 dataset released in May 2015 (<http://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/data/natura-6>). Some IBAs and SPAs may overlap with one another spatially, but for clarity the two types of site have been listed separately.

### **Consultation with Signatories in advance of MoS2**

In advance of MoS2, Signatories were asked to review the revised Table 3 of Annex 3 list of sites identified for their country and to alert the Coordinating Unit to any errors or omissions. The list is ordered alphabetically by region: Africa, Asia, Central Asia, Europe, Middle East and within each region, alphabetically by country.

If Signatories wished to propose additional internationally important sites for species listed in Annex 1 of the Raptors MoU, they were invited to complete the Form (Annex B to this document) and return it to the Coordinating Unit. Signatories considering proposing sites of national (as opposed to international) importance should do so in their National Raptor Conservation Strategy or contact the Coordinating Unit for advice.

In relation to Special Protection Area (SPA) information within EU Member States, the recommendation of the TAG Working Group is that Table 3 of Annex 3 of the Raptors MoU should reflect the data in official releases of the whole Natura 2000 dataset. As such, any suggested changes to the SPA data for individual countries should be fed through the Natura 2000 data update process. Table 3 of Annex 3 of the Raptors MoU can then be updated periodically with the latest official release of Natura 2000 data. This approach offers consistency and efficiency and will avoid the need to create a separate site reporting procedure for EU Member States in relation to Table 3 of Annex of the Action Plan in the Raptors MoU.

A response from one Signatory highlighted the need to accommodate in the revised Table 3 those sites which are not (currently) IBAs or SPAs, but meet criteria of international importance equivalent to IBA criteria for Annex 1 raptor species; the table header has been amended to reflect this change.

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<sup>7</sup> [The Birds Directive: Directive 2009/147/EC](#)

## Annex A

### Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs)

IBAs are a set of sites of international significance identified for birds (but often also significant for the conservation of other biodiversity), using a standardised set of data-driven criteria and thresholds, based on threat and irreplaceability. To date, more than 12,000 IBAs have been identified in nearly 200 countries and territories. The BirdLife Partnership, in collaboration with other stakeholders aims to identify, monitor and protect a global network of IBAs for the conservation of the world's birds and other biodiversity.

The BirdLife Partner, Partner Designate, Affiliate or country programme usually leads nationally in IBA identification but, where possible, they do so collaboratively, via a national IBA steering committee comprising the major stakeholder institutions, including government agencies. Legislators and planners are increasingly using IBA inventories to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of the protected-area networks under their jurisdiction. IBA inventories are widely used as 'shadow lists', for example to help evaluate national Special Protection Area identification and classification within the EU, and, for wetland IBAs, as potential wetlands of international importance by the Ramsar Convention.

**Categories and criteria<sup>8</sup> used to select Important Bird Areas** (sites may qualify for multiple categories and criteria)

#### A: Global

##### A1. Species of global conservation concern

The site regularly holds significant numbers of a globally threatened species, or other species of global conservation concern.

##### A2. Restricted-range species

The site is known or thought to hold a significant component of the restricted-range species whose breeding distributions define an Endemic Bird Area (EBA) or Secondary Area (SA).

##### A3. Biome-restricted species

The site is known or thought to hold a significant assemblage of the species whose breeding distributions are largely or wholly confined to one biome.

##### A4. Congregations

- i. The site is known or thought to hold, on a regular basis,  $\geq 1\%$  of a biogeographic population of a congregatory waterbird species.
- ii. The site is known or thought to hold, on a regular basis,  $\geq 1\%$  of the global population of a congregatory seabird or terrestrial species.
- iii. The site is known or thought to hold, on a regular basis,  $\geq 20,000$  waterbirds or  $\geq 10,000$  pairs of seabird of one or more species.
- iv. The site is known or thought to be a 'bottleneck' site where at least 20,000 storks (Ciconiidae), raptors (Accipitriformes and Falconiformes) or cranes (Gruidae) regularly pass during spring or autumn migration.

#### B: European

##### B1. Congregations

- i. The site is known or thought to hold  $\geq 1\%$  of a flyway or other distinct population of a waterbird species.
- ii. The site is known or thought to hold  $\geq 1\%$  of a distinct population of a seabird species.
- iii. The site is known or thought to hold  $\geq 1\%$  of a flyway or other distinct population of other congregatory species.
- iv. The site is a 'bottleneck' site where over 5,000 storks, or over 3,000 raptors or cranes regularly pass on spring or autumn migration.

##### B2. Species with an unfavourable conservation status in Europe

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/info/ibacriteria>

The site is one of the 'n' most important in the country for a species with an unfavourable conservation status in Europe (SPEC 2, 3) and for which the site-protection approach is thought to be appropriate.

### **B3. Species with a favourable conservation status in Europe**

The site is one of the 'n' most important in the country for a species with a favourable conservation status in Europe but concentrated in Europe (SPEC 4) and for which the site-protection approach is thought to be appropriate.

## **B: Middle East**

### **B1: Regionally important congregations**

The site may qualify on any one of the three criteria listed below:

- i. The site is known or thought to hold  $\geq 1\%$  of a flyway or other distinct population of a waterbird species.
- ii. The site is known or thought to hold  $\geq 1\%$  of a distinct population of a seabird species.
- iv. The site is a 'bottleneck' site where over 5,000 storks, or over 3,000 raptors or cranes regularly pass on spring or autumn migration.

### **B2: Species with an unfavourable conservation status in the Middle East**

The site is one of the five most important sites in the country/territory for a species with an unfavourable conservation status in the Middle East (threatened or declining throughout all or part of their range in the region) and for which the site-protection approach is thought to be appropriate.

### **B3: Species with a favourable conservation status but concentrated in the Middle East**

The site is one of the five most important sites in the country/territory for a species with a favourable conservation status in the Middle East but with its global range concentrated in the Middle East, and for which the site-protection approach is thought to be appropriate.

## **C: European Union**

### **C1. Species of global conservation concern**

The site regularly holds significant numbers of a globally threatened species, or other species of global conservation concern.

### **C2. Concentrations of a species threatened at the European Union level**

The site is known to regularly hold at least 1% of a flyway population or of the EU population of a species threatened at the EU level (listed on Annex I and referred to in Article 4.1 of the EC Birds Directive).

### **C3. Congregations of migratory species not threatened at the EU level**

The site is known to regularly hold at least 1% of a flyway population of a migratory species not considered threatened at the EU level (as referred to in Article 4.2 of the EC Birds Directive) (not listed on Annex I).

### **C4. Congregatory – large congregations**

The site is known to regularly hold at least 20,000 migratory waterbirds and/or 10,000 pairs of migratory seabirds of one or more species.

### **C5. Congregatory – bottleneck sites**

The site is a 'bottleneck' site where at least 5,000 storks (Ciconiidae) and/or at least 3,000 raptors (Accipitriformes and Falconiformes) and/or 3,000 cranes (Gruidae) regularly pass on spring or autumn migration.

### **C6. Species threatened at the European Union level**

The site is one of the five most important in the European region (NUTS region) in question for a species or subspecies considered threatened in the European Union (i.e. listed in Annex I of the EC Birds Directive).

### **C7. Other ornithological criteria**

The site has been designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) or selected as a candidate SPA based on ornithological criteria (similar to but not equal to C1–C6) in recognized use for identifying SPAs.

## Annex B

### Form to propose internationally important sites for addition to Table 3 of the Raptors MoU (in advance of MoS2)

Completed Forms (including associated maps) should be returned electronically to the Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MoU at: [cmsoffice.ae@cms.int](mailto:cmsoffice.ae@cms.int) .

Sites proposed for addition to Table 3 should meet criteria for international importance such as those used for identification of Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas<sup>9</sup> or EC Birds Directive Special Protection Areas<sup>10</sup>. Signatories considering proposing sites of national (as opposed to international) importance should do so in their National Raptor Conservation Strategy or contact the Coordinating Unit for advice.

#### Compiler's Details

Name	
Role/ job title	
Department name	
Address	
Country	
Email address	
Date form submitted	

**Proposed Site(s) for addition to Table 3** (For more information see explanatory notes below).

Site Name (International) <sup>a</sup>	Site Type(s) <sup>b</sup>	Site Code <sup>c</sup>	Geographic Coordinates <sup>d</sup>	Site Boundary Provided? <sup>e</sup>	Annex 1 of Raptors MoU species <sup>f</sup> for which site is important	Season <sup>g</sup>	Supporting Count Data <sup>h</sup>	International Criteria Met <sup>i</sup>	Comments

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/info/ibacriteria>

<sup>10</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/sites\\_birds/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/sites_birds/index_en.htm) and example of UK interpretation of SPA criteria at <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-162>

**Explanatory notes:**

**a) Site Name (International)** Internationally used site name.

**b) Site Type(s)** Statutory and non-statutory designations e.g. National Park, Nature Reserve, Community Management Area, Important Bird Area with international importance for raptors.

**c) Site Code(s)** If applicable. If multiple site types apply, specify which site type relates to which code.

**d) Geographic Coordinates** Provide the coordinates of the approximate centre of the site expressed in degrees, minutes, and seconds of latitude and longitude (e.g., in the format: 01°24'15''S 104°16'12''E or 010°30'15''N 084°51'28''W).

**e) Site Boundary Provided?** If available please provide in electronic format (e.g. JPEG), GIS file with attribute table or scanned hard copy of boundary on map. Specify in this column Y=yes or N=no and if Y describe how it has been provided (e.g. 'e-mailed to Coordination Unit with this form').

**f) Species listed in Annex 1 of the Raptors MoU for which site is important** For multiple species, use a separate row for each, repeating the site name / code in each row.

**g) Season** Is this species breeding/ non-breeding/ passage/ resident at the site? Where for example a resident and passage population of the same species is present, repeat the species name in another row and fill in separate season and count data.

**h) Supporting Count Data** Please provide count data (no. of individuals) for Raptors MoU Annex species at the site and date of count.

**i) International Criteria Met** Specify which international criteria<sup>9,10</sup> are met by Raptors MoU Annex 1 species at the site.