

THIRD MEETING OF SIGNATORIES TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY BIRDS OF PREY IN AFRICA AND EURASIA

(Dubai, 3-6 July 2023)

UNEP/CMS/RAPTORS/MOS3/Doc.10

REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP

(Prepared by the Chair of the Technical Advisory Group)

Summary: This document summarises the work undertaken by the Technical Advisory Group to the Raptors MOU since MOS2. It includes an assessment of each activity listed in the TAG Workplan 2016-2020 and a list of species assessed by the TAG for potential inclusion in Annex 1 (List of Species) of the Raptors MOU.

1. The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) was established with an interim membership at the First Meeting of Signatories to the Raptors MOU (MOS1, Abu Dhabi, December 2012) as a technical advisory body to provide expert advice, information and to make recommendations on the implementation of the MOU to Signatories and the Coordinating Unit (see document [CMS/Raptors/MOS1/Doc.13.2](#)). The interim members of the TAG worked during the intersessional period between MOS1 and the Second Meeting of Signatories (MOS2, Trondheim, October 2015).
2. As per the Terms of Reference (TOR) that were originally agreed at MOS1 (see document [CMS/Raptors/MOS1/Report/Annex V](#)), the purpose of the TAG is to serve and assist the Signatories in the effective implementation of the Raptors MOU, including its Action Plan.
3. The main tasks of the TAG are to:
 - a. Provide expert advice, information and make recommendations on the implementation of the Raptors MOU, to the Signatories and the Coordinating Unit, as requested;
 - b. Analyse, as necessary, scientific advice and assessments and to make recommendations, particularly concerning the content of Annexes 1, 2 and 3, in the Action Plan of the Raptors MOU;
 - c. Provide comments on any proposals to amend the MOU text which have a technical content;
 - d. Prepare a written report of its activities to deliver its work programme for each session of the Meeting of Signatories to be submitted to the Coordinating Unit at least 60 days in advance of the meeting; and,
 - e. Carry out any other tasks referred to it by the Meeting of Signatories.
4. MOS2 established the formal membership of the TAG (see document [UNEP/CMS/Raptors/MOS2/Report/Annex I](#)) and took note of its proposed Workplan (see document [UNEP/CMS/Raptors/MOS2/Report/Annex II](#)).
5. Since MOS2, the TAG met three times formally (Third Meeting of the Technical Advisory Group [TAG3], Sempach, December 2018; its Fourth Meeting [TAG4], Online, December 2021; and its Fifth Meeting [TAG5], Online, December 2022) and two times informally (13 April 2021; 24 April 2022). As per the TOR, most of the work occurred intersessionally by means of electronic communication including dedicated online tools (Workspace and later MSTEams). All documents discussed at each formal TAG meeting, including the reports, are available on the dedicated webpages for each formal meeting.

TAG Workplan

6. The implementation of the Workplan was tracked regularly and a final assessment is produced as Annex 1. For each activity, the progress at TAG3, TAG4, TAG5 and up to March 2023 are summarised. Of the 20 activities listed, 12 (60%) were fully completed, five (25%) partially completed, and three (15%) not addressed.
7. The Workplan presented to the Signatories at MOS2 (Annex 1 to the present document) was rather ambitious and the TAG succeed in delivering on most of the activities. The TAG felt that a more detailed document with clearer and measurable targets and outcomes, directly linked to the needs of the Signatories would help focus its work.
8. TAG5 discussed a revised Workplan for the period 2023-26 which updates the current Workplan and introduces various changes that are detailed in document [UNEP/CMS/Raptors/MOS3/15.3](#).

The amendments provide clear indications of the mandates under which each action is required, the expected output, the priority of each action and an indication of the financial resources required, if any to deliver on priority actions.

Amendment to the MOU and its Annexes

9. The TAG has developed several proposed amendments that are being submitted to MOS3. The internal consultation work during the development of the proposals has been comprehensive and thorough. The amendments to the MOU Text and the related amendments to the Action Plan and its Table 2 were announced at the informal TAG meeting in April 2021. A first draft of the proposed amendments was circulated to the TAG members in May 2021 and the comments received were incorporated in a second draft circulated in September 2021. The final version was endorsed at TAG4.
10. The proposed amendment related to the changed names of two countries was endorsed also at TAG4, while the change of the name of Türkiye was agreed upon through an online consultation in early 2023.
11. TAG3 discussed the impact of splitting *Ninox scutulata* (Brown Boobook) into four species: *Ninox scutulata* (Brown Boobook), *N. japonica* (Northern Boobook), *N. randi* (Chocolate Boobook) and *N. obscura* (Hume's Boobook) (see document [UNEP/CMS/Raptors/TAG3/4.1a](#)). The TAG agreed that, of these, only the Northern Boobook (*N. japonica*) met the CMS definition of "migratory species".
12. TAG4 discussed the impact of splitting *Milvus migrans* (Black Kite) into *M. migrans* (Black Kite) and *M. aegyptius* (Yellow-billed Kite; see document [UNEP/CMS/Raptors/TAG4/Doc.6.2b/Rev.1](#)). The latter is a newly recognised raptor species within the geographical scope of the MOU. The TAG members reviewed the evidence of the species' movements and considered that *M. aegyptius* met the definition of "migratory species", being at least a partial intra-African migrant.
13. Aside from the changes outlined above, other species were assessed to determine whether they met the CMS criteria to be considered as migratory species. These are listed in Annex 2 of the present document along with the TAG recommendation to MOS3.
14. TAG3 discussed the revised version of Table 3 (Site List) that took into consideration the inputs received at MOS2, and endorsed the approach taken as well as the proposed amendment to Table 3 currently proposed (see document [UNEP/CMS/Raptors/TAG3/Doc.4.1b/Rev.1](#)). TAG3 also considered proposals for listing sites of two Signatories. The sites proposed by the Syrian Arab Republic were endorsed by the TAG (see document [UNEP/CMS/Raptors/TAG3/Doc.4.1b/Rev.1/Annex2](#)).

Review of the Terms of Reference of the TAG

15. The review of the TOR was required to clarify operational aspects including formalizing that also Cooperating Partners could propose candidates for TAG membership as has occurred at MOS2 (see [UNEP/CMS/Raptors/MOS2/16](#)). TAG5 adopted the revised TOR, and these are presented in document [UNEP/CMS/RAPTORS/MOS3/Doc.15.1](#).

Selection of candidates for the new TAG Membership

16. Pursuant to paragraph 10 of the TOR of the TAG, the TAG Chair and Vice Chair participated in the panel that selected, among the candidates proposed by the Signatories, those to be proposed

for appointment to serve on the TAG between MOS3 and MOS5. The appointment of the TAG members is addressed in document [UNEP/CMS/RAPTORS/MOS3/Doc.15.2\(Rev.1\)](#).

17. The TAG has benefitted from the involvement of almost 30 experts, invited speakers and observers that contributed to the discussions over the years. The Chair, on behalf of the entire TAG membership, is grateful to all contributors listed in Annex 3 to this document.
18. The Chair wants to thank all members of the TAG for their continued commitment and contributions to the successful work of the TAG. This included Mr. Sadegh Sadeghi Zadegan who retired in late 2021, and Dr. Jean-Marc Thiollay who supported the TAG until his passing away in November 2021. Jean-Marc delighted in telling us he had seen every diurnal raptor species (and most sub-species) in the world and was an active supporter of BirdLife International and many other organizations, drawing on his detailed understanding of raptor movements and ecology. We miss Nick Williams, who passed away in April 2021. Nick joined the CMS in 2011 and was pivotal to the development of the Raptor MOU until 2020. He established and managed the TAG with great enthusiasm and tact, and had an outstanding knowledge of raptor conservation. The Chair warmly acknowledges the support of Vice-Chair André Botha, other members of the TAG for their tireless contributions, and Dr. Umberto Gallo Orsi and Lauren Lopes and colleagues for unstinting support of the Secretariat.

Action requested

19. The Meeting is invited to:
 - (a) Note the contents of this report and seek any clarifications, if required.

ANNEX 1

TAG Workplan 2016-2020 and its implementation

The level of implementation is colour coded: Green = fully completed; Yellow = partially completed; Red = not addressed

Technical Advisory Group to the Raptors MOU: Outline Intersessional Workplan (2016 – 2020)	Implementation level
MOU – Activity 1: Improvement of legal protection	
<p>1. Consider amendments adopted by MOS2 to Annex 1 (species) and amend Table 3 (sites) of the Action Plan, and in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) consider further possible candidate Annex 1 species in light of changes to their status as placed under Categories 1, 2 and 3 on basis of global population trends, and categorisation of existing Annex 1 species; b) consider further comments from the Signatories, make recommendations as to the updating of Table 3 of the Action Plan; c) consider any further changes to the geographic coverage of Annex 2 of the MOU. <p>Status (November 2018): All of the above items were covered within the consultancy contract with Birdlife International (BLI): All three Activities were granted separate Agenda Items for discussion at TAG3.</p> <p>Status (October 2021): BLI continued providing technical support through a contract with the Coordinating Unit and proposed amendments to Annex 1 and Table 1 (species) as well as to Table 3 (sites). The TAG was consulted through an intersessional online meeting in 2021 and via emails in preparation to TAG4. All three Activities have dedicated Agenda Items for consideration by TAG4.</p> <p>Status (2023) Amendment endorsed and submitted to MOS3.</p>	
<p>2. Consider any further changes on raptor taxonomy and nomenclature in relation to species listings within the MoU, having regard to CMS Resolution 11.19.</p> <p>Status (November 2018): Covered within the BLI consultancy contract: In progress but no changes anticipated (except insertion of Order - <i>Accipitriformes</i>).</p> <p>Status (October 2021): Covered within the BLI technical support contract mentioned above.</p> <p>Status (2023) Amendment endorsed and submitted to MOS3</p>	
Threats – Activity 2: Protect and/or manage important sites and flyways	
<p>3. Assess and review threats to Annex 1 species and make recommendations on appropriate measures to alleviate these problems prioritising work on the most threatened species and exploring funding and other avenues to stimulate the development of international species action plans.</p> <p>Status (November 2018): Covered within BLI consultancy contract. [Need to link with proposed Review of the MOU Action Plan, see Task 6.18 (below)] Activity is granted a separate Agenda Item for discussion at TAG3.</p> <p>Status (October 2021): A pilot Conservation Status Assessment Report of the raptors covered by the MOU will be produced as part of the BLI technical support to the TAG and will be presented to MOS3 for consideration. BirdLife will present a concept at TAG4 under Agenda item 6.5 for TAG to consider and contribute to. Resources have been earmarked by the Coordinating Unit for the completion of the International Sooty Falcon Action Plan. The development of an Action Plan for the Steppe Eagle is supported by</p>	

<p>Signatories and Range States however no offer of voluntary financial support has been made to take this forward.</p> <p>Status (2023) Conservation Status Assessment Report submitted to MOS3.</p>	
<p>4. Consider the need for guidance on species re-introduction measures specific to raptors, and in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) advise on any opportunities for international co-operation related to possible re-introduction programmes; and b) advise the Saker Falcon Task Force, as appropriate. <p>Status (March 2018): It was concluded the Interim TAG had addressed Task 2.4 by deciding to apply the IUCN Guidelines regarding re-introductions. AEWA had recently adopted <u>Guidelines for the Translocation of Waterbirds for Conservation Purposes: Complementing the IUCN Guidelines</u> which David Stroud thought might be relevant for raptors as well. It was suggested that a supporting document on raptor re-introductions, available for the Signatories, would be helpful. David suggested that the TAG produce a 'Guide to Guidance', which would effectively gather existing guidance into a concise list of resources. He kindly volunteered to compile a first draft. Nick Williams also pointed out that re-introduction was likely to be considered and included as part of the development of the Multi-species Action Plan for Vultures.</p> <p>Status (November 2018): David Stroud shared a link to AEWA's '<i>Conservation Guidelines: Format and Future Priorities</i>' via the online Workspace. The <u>Vulture MsAP</u> was developed and adopted by Parties at CMS COP12 in Manila, Philippines (October 2017). It includes a specific section on conservation (captive) breeding and re-introduction. Guide to Guidance on captive breeding and re-introduction under preparation.</p> <p>Status (October 2021): Reintroductions and reinforcements are covered by the IUCN Guidelines for Reintroductions and Other Conservation Translocations. Miguel Ferrer will present on reintroduction programmes in Spain at TAG4 which will open a discussion on the potential scope of further work on the issue by the TAG.</p> <p>Status (2023): The TAG agreed that the current IUCN guidelines are adequate and sufficient.</p>	
<p>5. Advise on gaps in current information on key breeding areas, stop-over, refuelling, bottleneck, other congregational and non-breeding sites along raptor flyways, and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) make recommendations on how these might be filled, and b) advise on appropriate approaches for the conservation and management of critical areas. <p>Status (March 2018): Nick Williams suggested that Activity 2.5 could at least be partially covered within the proposed contract with BirdLife International (BLI). Neil Deacon suggested species could be grouped according to flyways. Vicky Jones said data was available for the IBA component but complicated for the SPA sites in Table 3 (List of Sites) of Annex 3 of the MOU. Focussing on Category 1 species might be too restrictive so David suggested one way of approaching this would be to look at a few carefully selected species (noting migration ecology) and explore a methodology on these species only. It was agreed that consideration being given to including Activity 2.5 within the contract with BLI.</p> <p>Status (March 2018): Covered within BLI consultancy contract. Considered dependent upon finalising the Table 3 List of Sites. Activity was granted a separate Agenda Item for discussion at TAG3.</p> <p>Status (October 2021): Covered within the BLI technical support contract. A pilot site network analysis report will be made available at TAG4. TAG4 will consider this activity under Agenda Item 6.4.</p>	

Status (2023) The Pilot Site Network Analysis Report is submitted to MOS3.	
6. Building on existing reviews and exchanges of information with Signatories concerning the negative impacts on raptors arising from collision and electrocution from power-lines, make recommendations to Signatories as to the best means of engaging with the power generation and distribution sectors to address these impacts.	
7. Exchange guidance related to the mitigation of negative impacts of other energy generation sectors (e.g. wind and solar), and make recommendations to Signatories to address impacts. Status (March 2018): Key aspects of Activities 2.6 and 2.7 are included within the CMS Multi-species Action Plan to conserve African-Eurasian Vultures (Vulture MsAP) adopted by CMS COP12 in November 2017 and are incorporated in draft Strategic Implementation Plan for the Saker Falcon Global Action Plan (SakerGAP) which includes a Flagship Project to either install or retro-fit a million new or existing electricity poles to make them 'bird-safe'; and, considered by the Energy Task Force overseen by the CMS Secretariat. A Recommendation on combatting electrocution of birds had been adopted at the IUCN Word Congress (September 2016, which includes the need to engage with the power industry (win-win situation for both, including economically). A 'Guide to Guidance' document was proposed and Mátyás volunteered to produce a resources list. An International Conference on the threats posed to birds by electrocution and poisoning took place in Hungary (November 2016). Status (November 2018): Threats of electrocution and collision covered in both <u>SakerGAP</u> and Vulture MsAP with Implementation plans in preparation for both these initiatives. Progress made by several countries and agencies (e.g. International Association of Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey (IAF) led drafting of <u>IUCN Recommendation WCC-2016-Rec-098-EN</u> and establishment of dedicated website – www.birdelectrocution.org). UAE announced USD 1 million funding for Project to Combat Electrocution of Raptors at Flyways Summit (April 2018). 'Guide to Guidance' regarding preventing electrocution of raptors and mitigating the potential threat posed by renewable energy under preparation. Status (October 2021): An Electrocution Discussion Group was established in 2020 under the Saker Falcon Task Force (STF). The Terms of Reference (TOR) for this Discussion Group has been developed and further work is expected by the end of 2021 as well as improved collaboration with the CMS Energy Task Force (ETF). The investment of ca. USD 1 million by the Mohamed Bin Zayed Raptor Conservation Fund to retrofit mid-voltage powerlines in Mongolia is expected to be completed by the end of 2021 and to have a significant impact on the local breeding population. A dedicated <u>webpage</u> on the Raptors MOU website collates guides relating to electrocution and collision as well as other threats. The TAG was invited to provide input and comments into the IAF's <i>Reference note: Quick Guidance for Preventing Electrocution Impacts on Birds</i> .	
8. Provide recommendations on approaches to tackling the issue of illegal persecution including: a) the value of technologies such as electronic tracking methods as means of assessing the extent and location of persecution hotspots, x-ray monitoring, and DNA techniques; b) possible approaches to conflict resolution – where conflicts with other interests may be an ultimate driver for illegal killing; and, c) possible approaches to addressing persecution where illegal killing may be a long-standing practice with cultural elements. Status (March 2018): An overarching Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing,	

<p>Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT) convened by CMS is leading on this topic.</p> <p>Status (November 2018): Contributed inputs to two MIKT meetings (Egypt, July 2016 and Malta, June 2017) and also IAF led gathering on IKB (raptors) in the MENA Region held in Abu Dhabi, UAE in April 2017. Parties adopted voluntary use of an <u>IKB National Scorecard</u> at CMS COP12 in Manila, Philippines in October 2017. In addition, BLI has published two important reports covering, IKB in the Mediterranean Region (2015) and IKB in Europe, Central Asia and the Middle East (2017). Awaiting assessment of national contributions to initial IKB National Scorecard baseline exercise. Plans in place to host at least one IKB Workshop, probably in the Middle East region, as part of the EU LIFE funded project to conserve the Egyptian Vulture along its Western flyway (in late 2019 or 2020).</p> <p>Status (October 2021): Contributed input into the Fourth Meeting of the MIKT online (June 2021). Ongoing contribution to an EU-led good practice document on combating IKB. The Coordinating Unit supported an IKB workshop in the Middle East (24-28th October 2021), coordinated by BirdLife Middle East Secretariat as part of the Egyptian Vulture New LIFE Project.</p>	
<p>Habitat conservation and management – Activity 3: Raise awareness of issues and guidance</p>	
<p>9. Contribute scientific and technical advice on issues and good practice brought to attention of the TAG by Signatories to support (a) conservation and management activities and promulgation of guidance, and (b) capacity building to develop guidance, practices and other activities.</p> <p>Status (March 2018): Activities 2.4 and 2.7 include work relating to preparing ‘Guides to Guidance’. TAG2 concluded that no additional action was required on Activity 3.9 until such time as Signatories bring new issues to the attention of TAG.</p> <p>Status (November 2018): No further action anticipated.</p>	
<p>Poisoning – Activity 4: Raise awareness of problems faced by birds of prey and measures needed to conserve them</p>	
<p>10. Contribute technical expertise on raptors and their poisoning to the work of the CMS Preventing Poisoning Working Group and CMS Energy Task Force.</p> <p>Status (March 2018): Nick Williams highlighted the support already provided by the Coordinating Unit to the CMS Preventing Poisoning Working Group (PPWG) and that this was anticipated to continue. Also he anticipated the Coordinating Unit’s participation in the CMS Energy Task Force. The Head of the Avian Program at CMS informed the TAG that a Regional Implementation Plan on Preventing Poisoning in the Southern African Region was being prepared based on discussions at a Regional Workshop Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds that took place in Cape Town, South Africa in August 2015. No specific additional inputs were immediately required by TAG.</p> <p>Status (November 2018): The Regional Implementation Plan on Preventing Poisoning in the Southern African Region had been published. Poisoning (in various forms), was identified as the most critical threat to African-Eurasian vultures during development of the Vulture MsAP. The 2nd meeting of CMS PPWG was held back-to-back with the Vulture MsAP Overarching Workshop in Toledo, Spain in February 2017 to exploit synergies. CMS Secretariat to provide an update in their report to the TAG.</p> <p>Status (October 2021): No activities were undertaken in the frame of the PPWG due</p>	

<p>to a lack of available resources. Nevertheless, several activities on preventing poisoning were delivered. CMS Resolution 11.15 (Rev.COP13) specifically addressed the threats to vultures and other scavenging birds of prey deriving from carcasses of animals treated with Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs). A Working Group on NSAIDs was established by the TAG in June 2021 and is working to produce a questionnaire and a factsheet on the risks posed by the veterinary use of some NSAIDs, targeting the governmental agencies involved in the licencing of veterinary drugs and the veterinarian institutions and associations. Following <u>CITES Decisions 18.88 - 18.93</u> on illegal trade of West African vultures, a Working Group on West African Vultures was established and at the 31st Animal Committee, draft resolutions were prepared, with the support of the TAG and the Coordinating Unit. Such resolutions, if endorsed by CITES will contribute to the implementation of the Vulture MsAP. The Coordinating Unit is member of the ETF and the TOR of the Electrocution Discussion Group under the STF includes cooperation and coordination with the ETF.</p>	
<p>11. Make recommendations on priorities for raising awareness of raptor conservation needs in different regions.</p> <p>Status (March 2018): Given all the other tasks to be done, as TAG2 it was decided that Activity 4.11 be put on hold, with no immediate action planned by the TAG.</p> <p>Status (November 2018): Awareness raising to be included within Implementation Plans for both the SakerGAP and Vulture MsAP. No further action anticipated.</p>	
<p>Guidance – Activity 5: Monitor bird of prey populations, carry out conservation research and take appropriate remedial measures</p>	
<p>12. Make recommendations as to the crucial needs for common standards for methods, drawing from a review of national experiences and good practices, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) estimate the size of raptor populations; b) undertake monitoring of populations and migratory patterns; and, c) assess the threats, current conservation actions (including existing protective designations at sites), condition of habitats, and thus consequent need for further management and protection measures at important sites. <p>Status (March 2018): Nick Williams pointed out that there are already a considerable number of publications (books and papers) on methodologies relating to the issues covered by Activity 5.12 a) and b) but that with 93 species now listed on the Raptors MOU, this was considered to be a rather significant piece of work. Vicky Jones said she thought that BLI might be able to contribute to Activity 12 c) but that it might be preferable to delay this work until the amended Table 3 of Annex 3 (List of Sites) had been formally adopted by Signatories (anticipated at MoS3). Nick Williams highlighted that the TAG Workplan had been 'noted' by MOS2 so this could allow some flexibility for the TAG in light of detailed consideration. Activity 5.12 a) and b) could be addressed via another set of 'Guide to Guidance'. David Stroud pointed out that Wetlands International had reviewed important sites for AEWA and may be able to provide some assistance in avoiding pitfalls.</p> <p>Status (November 2018): Task 5.12 c) is covered within BLI consultancy contract (to be completed once Table 3 List of Sites is finalised). During the African Regional Action Planning Workshop to develop Vulture MsAP held in Dakar, Senegal in October 2017, a Task Group was established to consider developing standardised research methodologies and protocols relating to vultures. Ultimately, the Task Group decided that the amount of work required was unrealistic and the activity was abandoned.</p>	

<p>Status (October 2021): A <i>Guide for Attaching Research devices to Vultures and Condors</i> produced by the IUCN Vultures Specialist Group was shared on a dedicated page on the Raptors MOU. BLI technical support contract includes the development of a Raptor Conservation Status Assessment report to be prepared in time for MOS3. A concept will be presented at TAG4. Furthermore, the Pilot Site Network Analysis will provide insights into how well the network of sites currently identified is potentially effective in protecting migratory birds of prey.</p>	
<p>13. Develop further appropriate mechanisms for the sharing of data on raptors for the better implementation of the MOU's objectives.</p> <p>Status (March 2018): No specific immediate actions agreed by the TAG.</p> <p>Status (November 2018): To be considered as part of the consultancy to Review the MOU Action Plan, see Task 6.18 (below). Jari gave a short introductory presentation on the European Raptor Biomonitoring Facility at TAG3.</p> <p>Status (October 2021): The consultancy to Review the MOU Action Plan, did not cover this activity. No further action anticipated.</p>	
<p>Reporting – Activity 6: Supporting measures and horizon scanning</p>	
<p>14. Advise the MOS and Coordinating Unit on the perilous state of vultures, noting MOS2 concerns, and provide inputs to multi-species action planning.</p> <p>Status (March 2018): Activity 6.14 delivered by actively contributing to the development and review of the Vulture MsAP, led by the Coordinating Unit and adopted by CMS Parties at COP12 (November 2017). Six TAG members attended at least one of the five Action Planning Workshops. In addition, at CMS COP12, Parties adopted all of the eleven Appendix 1 species listing proposals (10 Old World vultures and Steppe Eagle) that TAG had recommended and that members commented upon last year.</p> <p>Status (November 2018): Development of a Vulture MsAP Strategic Implementation Plan included as part of a consultancy contract let by the Coordinating Unit (September 2018). A separate presentation to TAG3 is planned on this topic.</p> <p>Status (October 2021): The Vulture MsAP Strategic Implementation Plan (IP) was published on the website in February 2020. The IP identifies 11 flagship projects of which several are currently being implemented to different degrees by partners and Signatories, despite the lack of resources for a coordination framework.</p>	
<p>15. Report on issues of concern and for action relating to conservation, management, science and awareness-raising on the horizon, and advise on new conservation practices.</p> <p>Status (March 2018): David Stroud kindly volunteered to update the Horizon Scanning paper he had developed in advance of MoS2. Andre Botha offered to contribute to this.</p> <p>Status (November 2018): A Horizon Scanning paper is under preparation and a separate session has been programmed in the Agenda for TAG3.</p> <p>Status October 2021: The paper on emerging issues by David Stroud was presented at TAG3 and informed the discussion. Progress on relevant actions has been significant. A 'Guide for Attaching Research devices to Vultures and Condors' has been produced by the IUCN VSG and is available on the Raptors MOU website. Work is ongoing on NSAIDs (see work on poisoning above). Also, the involvement of the Raptors MOU in the MIKT and the progress in that process contributes to addressing the issue of mass killing of raptors in the Middle East.</p> <p>Status 2023: Horizon scanning paper included in TAG Workplan 2024-2026</p>	

<p>16. Develop an interim National Reporting Form, linked to the CMS Online Reporting System.</p> <p>Status October 2021: A National Reporting Form and Cooperating Partner Reporting Form based on the CMS Online Reporting System has been prepared, reviewed by the TAG and circulated to Signatories for pilot use prior to MOS3. The reporting forms will be presented for formal adoption at MOS3.</p> <p>Status (2023) National Reporting Form and Reporting Form for Cooperating Partners prepared and submitted to MOS3.</p>	
<p>17. Advise on the integration of national reporting with strategic planning processes.</p>	
<p>18. Review the MOU's Action Plan (Annex 3 of the MOU) in advance of MOS3.</p> <p>Status (March 2018): Nick Williams reported that the Coordinating Unit had not yet received any National or Regional Strategies from Signatories. Given that Signatories would be reporting on their progress in delivering these Strategies, this presented challenges for the development of a National Reporting Form. It was concluded that Activities 6.16, 6.17 and 6.18 (taking note of Activity 5.13 – above) would be addressed together.</p> <p>Status (November 2018): Coordinating Unit drafted Terms of Reference for this piece of work, including incorporating development of a Strategic Implementation Plan for Vulture MsAP. The consultancy was advertised and Dave Pritchard was recruited in September 2018. Work is now underway to progress the Review of the Action Plan to the Raptors MOU and a separate session was programmed in the TAG3 Agenda. Draft raptor conservation strategies had now been submitted to the Coordinating Unit by Switzerland (national) and the European Commission (regional) – a separate session on this topic was included in the TAG3 Agenda.</p> <p>Status (October 2021): The analysis by Dave Pritchard resulted in the Review of the Raptors MOU Action Plan published and posted on the Raptors MOU website in April 2020. It highlights the successes and challenges of the MOU implementation and identified the need to improve clarity and the linkages between the MOU, its Action Plan and the activities identified in Table 2. A separate session on this topic is included in the TAG4 Agenda.</p> <p>Status (2023) Amendment to the MOU Text, text of Annex 3 and Table 2 (Activities) submitted to MOS3.</p>	
<p>19. Support and advise the various CMS Task Forces, as appropriate.</p> <p>Status (March 2018): Via the Coordinating Unit, the TAG had contributed to three key CMS Task Forces covering the threats from IKB, energy and poisoning.</p> <p>Status (November 2018): Ongoing support being provided. Activities to be considered under Agenda Item entitled Report by the CMS Secretariat.</p> <p>Status (October 2021): Ongoing support being provided. Activities to be considered under TAG4 Agenda Item entitled Report by the CMS Secretariat.</p>	
<p>20. Support other relevant scientific and technical actions for the Raptors MOU listed in the Programme of Work (PoW) on Migratory Birds and Flyways (CMS Resolution 11.14).</p> <p>Status (March 2018): Development of the Vulture MsAP was the most significant item in the Flyways PoW (available on the CMS website as Resolution 11.14).</p> <p>Status (November 2018): No specific additional tasks are assigned to the Raptors MoU in the Flyways PoW. No additional further action anticipated.</p>	

ANNEX 2

Species Assessed by the TAG since MOS2 and TAG Recommendations

In grey the species that TAG considered not to propose for inclusion in the List of Species covered by the Raptors MOU.

Scientific name	Common name	History	TAG recommendation
<i>Ninox japonica</i>	Northern Boobook	Newly recognised species resulting from taxonomic split. Information on movements reviewed by the TAG at TAG3 (document UNEP/CMS/Raptors/TAG3/4.1a)	Consider for listing on Annex 1 – meets CMS definition of migratory species
<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>	Yellow-billed Kite	Newly recognised species resulting from taxonomic split. Information on movements reviewed by the TAG at TAG4 (document UNEP/CMS/Raptors/TAG4/Doc. 6.2b/Rev1)	Consider for listing on Annex 1 – meets CMS definition of migratory species
<i>Aquila fasciata</i>	Bonelli's Eagle	Proposed for consideration by Israel between MOS2 and TAG3	TAG3 concluded that there was not currently enough evidence from movements of wild individuals that it meets CMS definition of migratory species. It could be reconsidered in future on the basis of more information on movements of wild-hatched individuals.
<i>Glaucidium brodiei</i>	Collared Owlet	One of a group of species reviewed by the TAG between MOS2 and TAG3 and identified as a raptor occurring within the MOU geography, not on Annex 1 and coded by BirdLife International as: full migrant, altitudinal migrant, nomadic or 'unknown' migratory status.	Not currently enough evidence it meets CMS definition of migratory species
<i>Glaucidium cuculoides</i>	Asian Barred Owlet	One of a group of species reviewed by the TAG between MOS2 and TAG3 and identified as a raptor occurring within the MOU geography, not on Annex 1 and coded by BirdLife International as: full migrant, altitudinal migrant, nomadic or 'unknown' migratory status.	Not currently enough evidence it meets CMS definition of migratory species

<i>Athene supercilialis</i>	White-browed Owl	One of a group of species reviewed by the TAG between MOS2 and TAG3 and identified as a raptor occurring within the MOU geography, not on Annex 1 and coded by BirdLife International as: full migrant, altitudinal migrant, nomadic or 'unknown' migratory status.	Does not meet CMS definition of migratory species
<i>Otus semitorques</i>	Japanese Scops-owl	One of a group of species reviewed by the TAG between MOS2 and TAG3 and identified as a raptor occurring within the MoU geography, not on Annex 1 and coded by BirdLife International as: full migrant, altitudinal migrant, nomadic or 'unknown' migratory status.	Migratory part of population occurs outside Raptors MOU geographic scope so does not meet criteria for listing.
<i>Otus lettia</i>	Collared Scops-owl	One of a group of species reviewed by the TAG between MOS2 and TAG3 and identified as a raptor occurring within the MOU geography, not on Annex 1 and coded by BirdLife International as: full migrant, altitudinal migrant, nomadic or 'unknown' migratory status.	Not currently enough evidence it meets CMS definition of migratory species
<i>Otus bakkamoena</i>	Indian Scops-owl	One of a group of species reviewed by the TAG between MOS2 and TAG3 and identified as a raptor occurring within the MOU geography, not on Annex 1 and coded by BirdLife International as: full migrant, altitudinal migrant, nomadic or 'unknown' migratory status.	Not currently enough evidence it meets CMS definition of migratory species
<i>Otus spilocephalus</i>	Mountain Scops-owl	One of a group of species reviewed by the TAG between MOS2 and TAG3 and identified as a raptor occurring within the MOU geography, not on Annex 1 and coded by BirdLife International as: full migrant, altitudinal migrant, nomadic or 'unknown' migratory status.	Not currently enough evidence it meets CMS definition of migratory species
<i>Strix butleri</i>	Omani Owl	One of a group of species reviewed by the TAG between MOS2 and TAG3 and identified as a raptor occurring within the MOU geography, not on Annex 1 and coded by BirdLife International as: full migrant,	Too little information on this newly rediscovered species, but tiny areas of known range are geographically widely spaced. Recommend we review this species once

		altitudinal migrant, nomadic or 'unknown' migratory status.	more information is available.
<i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>	Secretarybird	One of a group of species reviewed by the TAG between MOS2 and TAG3 and identified as a raptor occurring within the MOU geography, not on Annex 1 and coded by BirdLife International as: full migrant, altitudinal migrant, nomadic or 'unknown' migratory status.	Not currently enough evidence it meets CMS definition of migratory species. Initial information suggests movements are nomadic rather than cyclical/predictable
<i>Gypohierax angolensis</i>	Palm-nut Vulture	One of a group of species reviewed by the TAG between MOS2 and TAG3 and identified as a raptor occurring within the MOU geography, not on Annex 1 and coded by BirdLife International as: full migrant, altitudinal migrant, nomadic or 'unknown' migratory status.	Not currently enough evidence it meets CMS definition of migratory species. Seems to sometimes make considerable movements, but have not yet found convincing evidence these are more than juvenile dispersal or nomadic movements

ANNEX 3

List of Invited Guests and Observers to TAG3, TAG4, and/or TAG5

- Anne Martinussen, Senior advisor, Norwegian Environment Agency, Norway
- Arild Robert Espelien, Senior advisor, Norwegian Environment Agency, Norway
- Arjun Amar, Associate Professor, FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology, University of Cape Town, South Africa
- Britt Forsén, Senior officer, Species Protection Unit, Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, Sweden
- Colin Galbraith, Chair of the Saker Falcon Task Force, CMS Appointed Councillor (Climate Change), Chair of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), United Kingdom
- Daniel Hegglin, President of the Board Vulture Conservation Foundation Switzerland
- Dave Pritchard, Consultant Hexham, United Kingdom
- David Stroud, Invited expert, United Kingdom
- Deira Linke, International Species Protection Unit, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany
- Éva Fejes, CMS National Focal Point for Hungary
- Fernando Spina, CMS Appointed Councillor (Connectivity/Networks), Head of Science, Bird Migration Research Branch Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale (ISPRA), Italy
- Hannah Wheatley, International Biodiversity Adviser Joint Nature Conservation Committee United Kingdom
- Hans Schmid, Head of Department (Bird Monitoring) Swiss Ornithological Institute Sempach, Switzerland
- Humbulani Mafumo, Deputy Director, Conservation Management, National Department of Environmental Affairs, South Africa
- Iván Ramírez, Head Avian Species Team, CMS Secretariat, Bonn, Germany
- Jo Anders Auran, Senior advisor, Norwegian Environment Agency, Norway
- Jorgen Eriksson, Desk Officer Natural Environment Department Swedish Environmental Protection Agency Sweden
- Karen Gaynor, Scientific Support Officer CITES Secretariat
- Louise Bednarz, Senior Advisor, Species Protection Unit, Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, Sweden
- Matt Parsons, Joint Nature Conservation Committee United Kingdom
- Miguel Ferrer, Research Professor, Spanish National Research Council (CSIC), Spain
- Nick Warmelink, Policy Officer International Species Conservation Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality Directorate-General Nature, Fisheries and Rural Affairs The Netherlands
- Nikola Besek, Intern, Avian Species CMS Secretariat Germany
- Oliver Schall, National Focal point of the Raptors MoU, International Species Protection Unit, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany
- Paul Shimmings, Senior consultant, BirdLife Norway
- Raffael Ayé, Programme Manager BirdLife Switzerland Zurich, Switzerland
- Ralph Buij, Africa and Asia Program Director The Peregrine Fund The Netherlands
- Reinhard Schnidrig, Head of Section Wildlife & Forest Biodiversity Section Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) Bern, Switzerland
- Sabine Herzog, Senior Policy Advisor Wildlife & Forest Biodiversity Section Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) Bern, Switzerland

- Stefan Werner, Department on birds-human conflict Swiss Ornithological Institute Sempach, Switzerland
- Tilman Schneider, Associate Programme Management Officer, CMS Secretariat, Bonn, Germany
- Zahra Elahi Rad, CMS Coordinator/ Ornithology Unit Officer, Wildlife Bureau, Iranian Department of Environment