

# **TAG3 -proposed updates to Annexes of the Raptors MoU**

Vicky Jones

# Background to work needed at TAG3

- Proposed updates to Annex 1, Annex 2 and Table 3 here derive from tasks set at MoS2 in the TAG workplan
- Some preliminary work carried out on TAG workplan tasks by BirdLife and posted on TAG workspace.
- Comments gratefully received, some revised documents for TAG3 and some new tasks not yet discussed by TAG on the workspace

## **Does Annex 1 need any revision in advance of MoS3?**

**Reasons for changes:**

**Migratory status**

**Taxonomic/ nomenclature changes**

## Review the content of Annex 1 species list (doc 4.1a):

### Overview of proposed updates to Annex 1

- The Raptors MoU is intended to promote the conservation of migratory birds of prey in the African-Eurasian region and this is interpreted in the text of the MoU as meaning migratory Falconiformes and Strigiformes species occurring in Africa and Eurasia, listed in Annex 1 of the MoU.
- Later discussion on the higher level taxonomy – Accipitriformes
- Species list Annex 1 – currently 93 species
- BirdLife reviewed all Falconiformes, Strigiformes and Accipitriformes species occurring within the agreement area, not currently on Annex 1 and with migratory coding: migratory, nomadic or altitudinal migrant in BirdLife's database to explore whether any might meet the CMS definition of migratory



## Boobooks (Doc 4.1a)

- The taxonomic entity *Ninox scutulata* (Brown Boobook) Sibley and Monroe (1990, 1993) has been split into 4 species *Ninox scutulata* (Brown Boobook – not a migrant), *N. japonica* (Northern Boobook – migratory) *N. randi* (Chocolate Boobook – not a migrant) and *N. obscura* (Hume's Boobook – not a migrant)
- Only what is now recognised as Northern Boobook (*N. japonica*) is migratory
- TAG reviewed whether Northern Boobook meets CMS definition of migratory (workspace) and supported its listing
- Logical result of listing Northern Boobook would then be removal of Brown Boobook from Annex 1 as the taxonomic entity now known as Brown Boobook is non-migratory.
- TAG asked to consider whether having agreed that Northern Boobook meets criteria for listing, **they support removal of Brown Boobook and addition of Northern Boobook?**

## Bonelli's Eagle (Doc 4.1a)

- 1 species proposed by Israel to be added on emerging evidence of movement patterns fitting with the Raptors MoU (CMS) definition of 'migratory'- Bonelli's Eagle.
- TAG to review evidence summary provided in Doc 4.1a and **decide whether it supports the proposal?**

- A reminder of the CMS definition of 'migratory':  
**CMS – 'the entire population or any geographically separate part of the population of any species or lower taxon of wild animals, a significant proportion of whose members cyclically and predictably cross one or more national jurisdictional boundaries'**
- And the clarification of terms provided in CMS resolution 2.2:  
**'In the interpretation of the term "migratory species" in Article 1, paragraph 1 The word "cyclically" in the phrase "cyclically and predictably" relates to a cycle of any nature, such as astronomical (circadian, annual etc.), life or climatic, and of any frequency;**  
  
**-The word "predictably" in the phrase "cyclically and predictably" implies that a phenomenon can be anticipated to recur in a given set of circumstances, though not necessarily regularly in time.'**

## Resulting changes to Annex 1

- Existing 93 species + Northern Boobook – Brown Boobook + Bonelli's Eagle  
= 94 species on Annex 1

# Update Annex 3 Table 1 Categorisation

## Reminder of purpose of Table 1

- In Table 1 of the MoU, Annex 1 species of the MoU are divided into three categories depending on their global and regional conservation status:
  - **Category 1** Globally threatened and Near Threatened species as defined according to the latest IUCN Red List and listed as such in the BirdLife International World Bird Database
  - **Category 2** Species considered to have Unfavourable Conservation Status at a regional level within the Range States and territories listed in Annex 2 to the MoU
  - **Category 3**—all other migratory species

## More on Category 2 of Table 1

- **Category 2** is 'Species that are considered to have Unfavourable Conservation Status at a regional level within the area (defined in Annex 2) of the MoU. Effectively this comprises Annex 1 species which are Least Concern on the Global IUCN Red List, but are either:
  - **a)** Listed as threatened or Near Threatened on the latest European Red List of Birds; or,
  - **b)** On the basis of BirdLife International latest data, would meet criteria to be considered as Species of European Conservation Concern -SPEC1, SPEC2 or SPEC 3 (as in BirdLife International (2004) Birds in Europe: population estimates, trends and conservation status. Cambridge, UK: BirdLife International Conservation Series No. 12); or,
  - **c)** Have a declining global population trend according to the latest data in Birdlife International database.

*SPEC 1*—Species of Global Conservation Concern, i.e. classified as globally threatened, or Near Threatened

*SPEC 2*—Species that are concentrated in Europe and have an unfavourable conservation status in Europe

*SPEC 3*—Species that are not concentrated in Europe but have an unfavourable conservation status in Europe

Family	Scientific name	Common name	Annex 1?	Table 1 species category	Annex 1 Category 2 species criteria	Category change since MoS2	Category change since MoS2 comment	IUCN Red List change since MoS2	2015 IUCN Red List Category	2017 IUCN Red List Category	Current global population trend	
STRIGIDAE	<i>Ninox scutulata</i>									LC	Decreasing	
STRIGIDAE	<i>Ninox japonica</i>									LC	Stable	
STRIGIDAE	<i>Surnia ulula</i>									LC	Stable	
STRIGIDAE	<i>Aegolius funereus</i>									LC	Stable	
STRIGIDAE	<i>Otus scops</i>									LC	Decreasing	
STRIGIDAE	<i>Otus brucei</i>	Pallid Scops-owl		1	Category 2	a) b)	0			LC	Stable	
STRIGIDAE	<i>Otus sunia</i>	Oriental Scops-owl		1	Category 3		0			LC	Stable	
STRIGIDAE	<i>Asio otus</i>	Northern Long-eared Owl		1	Category 2	c)	0			LC	Decreasing	
STRIGIDAE	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	Short-eared Owl		1	Category 2	b) c)	0			LC	Decreasing	
STRIGIDAE	<i>Asio capensis</i>	Marsh Owl		1	Category 3		0			LC	Stable	
STRIGIDAE	<i>Strix uralensis</i>	Ural Owl		1	Category 3		0			LC	Stable	
STRIGIDAE	<i>Strix nebulosa</i>	Great Grey Owl		1	Category 2	b)	1	Category 3 to Category 2		LC	Increasing	
STRIGIDAE	<i>Bubo scandiacus</i>	Snowy Owl		1	Category 1		1	Category 2 to Category 1	1	LC	VU	Decreasing
PANDIONIDAE	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Osprey		1	Category 3		0			LC	Increasing	
ACCIPITRIDAE	<i>Chelictinia riocour</i>	Scissor-tailed Kite		1	Category 2	c)	0			LC	Decreasing	
ACCIPITRIDAE	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	European Honey-buzzard		1	Category 2	c)	0			LC	Decreasing	
ACCIPITRIDAE	<i>Pernis ptilorhynch</i>	Oriental Honey-buzzard		1	Category 3		0			LC	Stable	
ACCIPITRIDAE	<i>Aviceda cuculoide</i>	African Cuckoo-hawk		1	Category 3		0			LC	Stable	
ACCIPITRIDAE	<i>Aviceda jerdoni</i>	Jerdon's Baza		1	Category 2	c)	0			LC	Decreasing	
ACCIPITRIDAE	<i>Aviceda leuphotes</i>	Black Baza		1	Category 2	c)	0			LC	Decreasing	
ACCIPITRIDAE	<i>Gypaetus barbatu</i>	Bearded Vulture		1	Category 1	a) b) c)	0			NT	Decreasing	
ACCIPITRIDAE	<i>Neophron percno</i>	Egyptian Vulture		1	Category 1	a) b) c)	0			EN	Decreasing	
ACCIPITRIDAE	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	Short-toed Snake-eagle		1	Category 3		0			LC	Stable	
ACCIPITRIDAE	<i>Circaetus beaudoi</i>	Beaudouin's Snake-eagle		1	Category 1	c)	0			VU	Decreasing	
ACCIPITRIDAE	<i>Circaetus pectora</i>	Black-chested Snake-eagle		1	Category 3		0			LC	Unknown	
ACCIPITRIDAE	<i>Circaetus cinereus</i>	Brown Snake-eagle		1	Category 2	c)	1	Category 3 to Category 2		LC	Decreasing	
ACCIPITRIDAE	<i>Sarcogyps calvus</i>	Red-headed Vulture		1	Category 1	c)	0			CR	Decreasing	
ACCIPITRIDAE	<i>Trigonoceps occip</i>	White-headed Vulture		1	Category 1	c)	0			CR	Decreasing	
ACCIPITRIDAE	<i>Necrosyrtes mona</i>	Hooded Vulture		1	Category 1	c)	0			CR	Decreasing	
ACCIPITRIDAE	<i>Gyps himalayensis</i>	Himalayan Griffon		1	Category 1		0			NT	Stable	
ACCIPITRIDAE	<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>	White-rumped Vulture		1	Category 1	c)	0			CR	Decreasing	
ACCIPITRIDAE	<i>Gyps africanus</i>	White-backed Vulture		1	Category 1	c)	0			CR	Decreasing	
ACCIPITRIDAE	<i>Gyps indicus</i>	Indian Vulture		1	Category 1	c)	0			CR	Decreasing	
ACCIPITRIDAE	<i>Gyps tenuirostris</i>	Slender-billed Vulture		1	Category 1	c)	0			CR	Decreasing	

TAG has already commented on this in the workspace – changes since re: Tawny Eagle and contingent on decisions on Annex 1

Family	Scientific name	Common name	Annex 1?	Table 1 species category	Annex 1 Category 2 species	Category change since	Category change since MoS2 comment	IUCN Red List change since MoS2	2015 IUCN Red List	2017 IUCN Red List	Current global population
ACCIPITRIDAE	<i>Gyps tenuirostris</i>	Slender-billed Vulture	1	Category 1	c)	0				CR	Decreasing
ACCIPITRIDAE	<i>Gyps coprotheres</i>	Cape Vulture	1	Category 1	c)	0				EN	Decreasing
ACCIPITRIDAE	<i>Gyps rueppelli</i>	Rüppell's Vulture	1	Category 1	c)	0				CR	Decreasing
ACCIPITRIDAE	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	Griffon Vulture	1	Category 3		0				LC	Increasing
ACCIPITRIDAE	<i>Aegypius monach</i>	Cinereous Vulture	1	Category 1	b) c)	0				NT	Decreasing
ACCIPITRIDAE	<i>Torgos tracheliot</i>	Lappet-faced Vulture	1	Category 1	c)	0				EN	Decreasing
ACCIPITRIDAE	<i>Nisaetus nipalens</i>	Mountain Hawk-eagle	1	Category 2	c)	0				LC	Decreasing
ACCIPITRIDAE	<i>Clanga pomarina</i>	Lesser Spotted Eagle	1	Category 3		0				LC	Stable
ACCIPITRIDAE	<i>Clanga clanga</i>	Greater Spotted Eagle	1	Category 1	a) b) c)	0				VU	Decreasing
ACCIPITRIDAE	<i>Aquila rapax</i>	Tawny Eagle	1	Category 1		0	Category 2 to Category 1		LC	VU	Decreasing
ACCIPITRIDAE	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>	Steppe Eagle	1	Category 1	a) b) c)	0				EN	Decreasing
ACCIPITRIDAE	<i>Aquila fasciata</i>	Bonelli's Eagle	Suggested to be add	Category 2	a) b) c)					LC	Decreasing
ACCIPITRIDAE	<i>Aquila adalberti</i>	Spanish Imperial Eagle	1	Category 1	a) b)	0				VU	Increasing
ACCIPITRIDAE	<i>Aquila heliaca</i>	Eastern Imperial Eagle	1	Category 1	b) c)	0				VU	Decreasing
ACCIPITRIDAE	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Golden Eagle	1	Category 3		0				LC	Stable
ACCIPITRIDAE	<i>Hieraaetus wahlb</i>	Wahlberg's Eagle	1	Category 3		0				LC	Stable
ACCIPITRIDAE	<i>Hieraaetus penna</i>	Booted Eagle	1	Category 3		0				LC	Unknown
ACCIPITRIDAE	<i>Hieraaetus ayresii</i>	Ayres's Hawk-eagle	1	Category 3		0				LC	Stable
ACCIPITRIDAE	<i>Circus aeruginosu</i>	Western Marsh-harrier	1	Category 3		0				LC	Increasing
ACCIPITRIDAE	<i>Circus spilonotus</i>	Eastern Marsh-harrier	1	Category 3		0				LC	Stable
ACCIPITRIDAE	<i>Circus maurus</i>	Black Harrier	1	Category 1	c)	0		1	VU	EN	Decreasing
ACCIPITRIDAE	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Hen Harrier	1	Category 2	a) b) c)	0				LC	Decreasing
ACCIPITRIDAE	<i>Circus macrourus</i>	Pallid Harrier	1	Category 1	a) b) c)	0				NT	Decreasing
ACCIPITRIDAE	<i>Circus melanoleuc</i>	Pied Harrier	1	Category 2	c)	0				LC	Decreasing
ACCIPITRIDAE	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	Montagu's Harrier	1	Category 2	c)	0				LC	Decreasing
ACCIPITRIDAE	<i>Accipiter badius</i>	Shikra	1	Category 2	a)	0				LC	Stable
ACCIPITRIDAE	<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>	Levant Sparrowhawk	1	Category 2	b)	1	Category 3 to Category 2			LC	Stable
ACCIPITRIDAE	<i>Accipiter soloensis</i>	Chinese Sparrowhawk	1	Category 2	c)	0				LC	Decreasing
ACCIPITRIDAE	<i>Accipiter gularis</i>	Japanese Sparrowhawk	1	Category 3		0				LC	Stable
ACCIPITRIDAE	<i>Accipiter virgatus</i>	Besra	1	Category 2	c)	0				LC	Decreasing
ACCIPITRIDAE	<i>Accipiter ovampesi</i>	Ovambo Sparrowhawk	1	Category 3		0				LC	Increasing
ACCIPITRIDAE	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	1	Category 3		0				LC	Stable
ACCIPITRIDAE	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	Northern Goshawk	1	Category 3		0				LC	Unknown
ACCIPITRIDAE	<i>Haliaeetus leucor</i>	Pallas's Fish-eagle	1	Category 1	c)	0		1	VU	EN	Decreasing
ACCIPITRIDAE	<i>Haliaeetus albicill</i>	White-tailed Sea-eagle	1	Category 3		0				LC	Increasing
ACCIPITRIDAE	<i>Haliaeetus pelagic</i>	Steller's Sea-eagle	1	Category 1	c)	0				VU	Decreasing
ACCIPITRIDAE	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	Red Kite	1	Category 1	a) b) c)	0				NT	Decreasing
ACCIPITRIDAE	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	Black Kite	1	Category 2	b)	0				LC	Unknown

Family	Scientific name	Common name	Annex 1?	Table 1 species category	Annex 1 Category 2 species criteria	Category change since MoS2	Category change since MoS2 comment	IUCN Red List change since MoS2	2015 IUCN Red List Category	2017 IUCN Red List Category	Current global population trend
ACCIPITRIDAE	Butastur rufipenn	Grasshopper Buzzard	1	Category 2	c)	0				LC	Decreasing
ACCIPITRIDAE	Butastur indicus	Grey-faced Buzzard	1	Category 2	c)	0				LC	Decreasing
ACCIPITRIDAE	Buteo lagopus	Rough-legged Buzzard	1	Category 3		0				LC	Stable
ACCIPITRIDAE	Buteo auguralis	Red-necked Buzzard	1	Category 3		0				LC	Increasing
ACCIPITRIDAE	Buteo buteo	Eurasian Buzzard	1	Category 3		0				LC	Stable
ACCIPITRIDAE	Buteo japonicus	Japanese Buzzard	1	Category 3		0				LC	Unknown
ACCIPITRIDAE	Buteo trizonatus	Forest Buzzard	1	Category 1		1	Category 3 to Category 1	1	LC	NT	Stable
ACCIPITRIDAE	Buteo rufinus	Long-legged Buzzard	1	Category 3		0				LC	Stable
ACCIPITRIDAE	Buteo hemilasius	Upland Buzzard	1	Category 3		0				LC	Stable
FALCONIDAE	Falco naumanni	Lesser Kestrel	1	Category 2	b)	0				LC	Stable
FALCONIDAE	Falco tinnunculus	Common Kestrel	1	Category 2	b) c)	0				LC	Decreasing
FALCONIDAE	Falco alopex	Fox Kestrel	1	Category 3		0				LC	Stable
FALCONIDAE	Falco vespertinus	Red-footed Falcon	1	Category 1	a) b) c)	0				NT	Decreasing
FALCONIDAE	Falco amurensis	Amur Falcon	1	Category 3		0				LC	Stable
FALCONIDAE	Falco eleonora	Eleonora's Falcon	1	Category 3		0				LC	Increasing
FALCONIDAE	Falco concolor	Sooty Falcon	1	Category 1	c)	0		1	NT	VU	Decreasing
FALCONIDAE	Falco columbarius	Merlin	1	Category 3		0				LC	Stable
FALCONIDAE	Falco subbuteo	Eurasian Hobby	1	Category 2	c)	0				LC	Decreasing
FALCONIDAE	Falco cuvierii	African Hobby	1	Category 2	c)	0				LC	Decreasing
FALCONIDAE	Falco severus	Oriental Hobby	1	Category 2	c)	0				LC	Decreasing
FALCONIDAE	Falco biarmicus	Lanner Falcon	1	Category 2	a) b)	0				LC	Increasing
FALCONIDAE	Falco cherrug	Saker Falcon	1	Category 1	a) b) c)	0				EN	Decreasing
FALCONIDAE	Falco severus	Oriental Hobby	1	Category 2	c)	0				LC	Decreasing
FALCONIDAE	Falco biarmicus	Lanner Falcon	1	Category 2	a) b)	0				LC	Increasing
FALCONIDAE	Falco cherrug	Saker Falcon	1	Category 1	a) b) c)	0				EN	Decreasing
FALCONIDAE	Falco rusticolus	Gyr Falcon	1	Category 2	b)	1	Category 3 to Category 2			LC	Stable
FALCONIDAE	Falco peregrinus	Peregrine Falcon	1	Category 3		0				LC	Stable

## Result re: Table 1

- Category 1 – 30 species
- Category 2 – 29 species
- Category 3 – 35 species
- =94 species on Annex 1

(if Northern Boobook in, Brown Boobook out and Bonelli's in)

- **Is TAG happy with proposed changes to Table 1?**

Annex 3 Table 3 updates (Doc. 4.1b)

## Table 3 of the Action Plan (Doc 4.1b)

- In original text of the Raptors MoU, Table 3 (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) 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. These sites were located in 36 range states
- This list of 135 IBAs was intended to be indicative rather than comprehensive and is prefaced by the clarification 'This indicative list should be treated as a minimum list of internationally important areas'.
- Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) -places of international significance for the conservation of birds and other biodiversity. Identified using robust, standardised, internationally agreed criteria applied locally by BirdLife Partners and national experts

## Table 3 of the Action Plan (Doc 4.1b)

- Between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of Signatories (MOS2) to the Raptors MOU, TAG carried out a review of Table 3 and developed a much expanded draft site list
- MoS1 had requested that for EU countries Special Protection Areas defined under the EC Birds Directive that are relevant for migratory birds of prey had been identified and were proposed for inclusion.
- Considerable progress had been made in the identification of Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) since the original Table 3 of Annex 3 had been drafted in 2008.
- The draft Table 3 was shared with Signatories for comment ahead of MoS2 and a site proposal form was shared to capture any suggested changes from Signatories
- Draft Table 3 at MoS2 contained IBAs & SPAs identified for any range state in the agreement area and which qualified due to their importance for a species of migratory raptor then listed in Annex 1 of the MOU (incl under any IBA criterion) or if it was identified as a 'bottleneck' site for migrating raptors.

## Table 3 of the Action Plan (Doc 4.1b)

- A number of Signatories took the opportunity to suggest changes to their national list which were assessed by TAG and usually incorporated, although some Signatories proposed sites which were of national rather than international importance -→ National Strategy
- Final draft list included sites from more than 100 range states rather than 36 range states as per the original
- At MoS2 Signatories took note of the proposed amended List of Sites presented at MoS2, but sought more time to fully consider the implications of the doc
- The EU requested some amendments to the SPA component of the list, namely removal of qualifying species with 'non-significant' population sizes at SPAs
- Signatories also requested review by TAG of the proposed List of Sites, taking into consideration the amendments to Annex 1 (List of African-Eurasian migratory birds of prey) of the MOU adopted at MoS2.
- The Federal Office for the Environment Switzerland (Signatory to the MoU in 2014) have been reviewing the Swiss component of draft Table 3 presented at MoS2 and will propose some enhancements

## Overview of proposed amendments to Table 3 for MoS3 (4.1b)

- **IBAs** - Insertions to the IBA element of draft Table 3 for qualifying populations of Annex 1 species, newly listed on Annex 1 at MoS are marked in yellow
- 533 new qualifying population records at IBAs have been added for species newly listed on Annex 1 at MoS2.
- These additions occurred in 34 countries and resulted in an additional 157 IBAs being added to draft Table 3.
- **SPAs** – To amend the SPA component of the list we used the same (May 2015) version of the Natura 2000 database used as the basis for creation of the MoS2 version of Table 3.
- 150 cases where species newly listed on Annex 1 at MoS2 have been added as qualifying populations at SPAs (Bearded Vulture in Austria, Spain, France, Greece and Italy) highlighted in blue.
- No new SPAs qualified to be added to the list as a result.

## Overview of proposed amendments to Table 3 for MoS3 (4.1b)

- After MoS2 EU requested the removal of Category D populations at SPAs
- Categories A-C are different bands used to evaluate the relative size or density of the population of a species listed as occurring at an SPA in relation to the national population. They are used to describe the percentage of the national population present at the SPA
- Category D is used for nonsignificant populations 'where a population of the species concerned is present on the site in question in a non-significant manner'.
- These occurrences were identified using the May 2015 Natura 2000 dataset. They are highlighted in red and proposed for removal from draft Table 3.
- 1,307 incidences of 'Category D' populations at SPA's proposed for removal
- This affects listings for 39 species and 7 countries and would result in the removal of 48 whole SPA sites
- Swiss government is currently reviewing the site listings for Switzerland on draft Table 3
- What could still be done in future? Making small nomenclature changes accepted into Annex 1 at MoS2, updating data for IBAs and SPAs

## Process for moving forward on Table 3 for MoS3 (4.1b)

- **Is TAG happy with the approach and proposed amendments for Table 3?**
- FOEN will present and submit proposed amendments to Swiss list which will be shared with TAG
- Process for consultation on this new draft Table 3 with Signatories ahead of MoS3