



## Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia

Distribution: General

UNEP/CMS/Raptors/TAG3/Doc.4.1b  
/Rev.1

9 December 2018

Third Meeting of the Technical Advisory Group | *Sempach, Switzerland, 12-14 December 2018*

### AMENDMENTS TO THE LIST OF SITES IMPORTANT FOR MIGRATORY RAPTORS

*Prepared by Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MOU*

#### Background

1. For the second Meeting of Signatories (MOS2) to the Raptors MOU, TAG carried out a review of the list of congregatory sites important for migratory birds of prey set out in Table 3 of Annex 3 of the Raptors MOU and described as an indicative list that should be treated as a minimum list of internationally important areas. BirdLife International, delegated by IUCN as the Red List authority for birds, and represented on TAG, expertly led the review process under a contract let by the Coordinating Unit. The review was underpinned by the following approaches:

- a) 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.
- b) IBAs within Range States were only recommended for inclusion if they qualified due to their importance for a species of migratory raptor currently listed in Annex 1 of the MOU, or if it was identified as a 'bottleneck' site for migrating raptors (under any IBA criterion).
- c) For EU Member States, 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.

2. TAG proposals made in a MOS2 document (UNEP/CMS/Raptors/MOS2/15)<sup>1</sup> recommended a significantly more comprehensive list of sites and proposed an amended Table 3.

3. Signatories took note of the proposed amended List of Sites presented at MOS2, but sought more time to fully consider the implications of the document and the EU requested some amendments to the SPA component of the list. Signatories also requested further 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 (see Annex 1 to this document) and the list of Range States in Annex 2 (including a map of the geographic area covered by the MOU), adopted at MOS2<sup>2</sup>.

#### Developments since MOS2

4. Since MOS2 TAG has been working to create a spreadsheet version of Table 3 to facilitate update and analysis. IBAs and SPAs for the 18 species newly listed on Annex 1 at MOS2 have been identified. These internationally important sites are being added to the draft of Table 3 which, pending

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cms.int/raptors/en/document/proposals-amendments-raptors-mou-andor-its-annexes-provisional-list-important-bird-areas>

<sup>2</sup> <https://cms.int/raptors/en/document/report-second-meeting-signatories-raptors-mou>, p. 43-44.

TAG approval, would be put to Signatories ahead of MOS3. The revised draft Table 3 has been checked to ensure that it reflects Annex 2 of the Action Plan with regard to geographic area.

5. Following a specific request from the EU, some species currently listed as qualifying at SPAs will be removed from Table 3 if they only occur at the SPA in 'non-significant' numbers (population category D). Finally, Switzerland, a relatively recent Signatory to the Raptors MOU, has been actively developing a national approach to raptor conservation in the country. As part of this work, the Federal Office for the Environment has reviewed the Swiss component of draft Table 3 presented to MOS2 and plans to propose updates to the list of internationally important sites in advance of TAG3.

#### **Aim of TAG3 meeting**

6. TAG members will be updated on the work undertaken in relation to the List of Sites and the approach taken, including an introduction to the revised draft Table 3 – please refer to separate Annex 2 of this document. TAG members will be invited to make a detailed review of this document after the meeting via the online TAG Workspace. Switzerland will introduce proposals for their revised suite of national sites of international importance for migratory birds of prey for consideration.

#### **Action requested**

TAG is requested to endorse the approach and methodology adopted, and (subsequently) to agree the (revised) proposed amendments 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).

**Annex 1: Species added to Annex 1 of Raptors MOU at MOS2 (October 2015)**

<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>	Bearded Vulture
<i>Circaetus beaudouini</i>	Beaudouin's Snake-eagle
<i>Circaetus pectoralis</i>	Black-chested Snake-eagle
<i>Circaetus cinereus</i>	Brown Snake-eagle
<i>Sarcogyps calvus</i>	Red-headed Vulture
<i>Trionoceps occipitalis</i>	White-headed Vulture
<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>	Hooded Vulture
<i>Gyps himalayensis</i>	Himalayan Griffon
<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>	White-rumped Vulture
<i>Gyps africanus</i>	White-backed Vulture
<i>Gyps indicus</i>	Indian Vulture
<i>Gyps tenuirostris</i>	Slender-billed Vulture
<i>Gyps coprotheres</i>	Cape Vulture
<i>Gyps rueppelli</i>	Rüppell's Vulture
<i>Torgos tracheliotos</i>	Lappet-faced Vulture
<i>Hieraaetus ayresii</i>	Ayres's Hawk-eagle
<i>Falco cuvierii</i>	African Hobby
<i>Asio capensis</i>	Marsh Owl