

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

SELECTION OF PILOT SPECIES FOR SITE NETWORK ANALYSIS

Prepared by BirdLife International in consultation with the Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MOU

1. As part of two Activities identified in the TAG WorkPlan (Activity 2, Task 2.5 and Activity 5, Task 5.12c) sample analysis was envisaged of the draft Table 3 (List of Sites of international importance for migratory birds or prey). TAG is invited to assist with selection of the pilot species for these two tasks, which form a representative sample covering a variety of different taxa, geographic ranges, Annex 3., Table 1 Categories (i.e. IUCN threat status) and strategies in terms of migratory movements / spatial distribution.

2. The two key tasks to be undertaken are outlined below:

Analysing comprehensiveness of the draft Table 3 (List of Sites) in covering Annex 1 species during their entire annual cycle

Activity 2, Task 2.5 is to 'Advise on gaps in current information on key breeding areas, stop-over, refuelling, bottleneck, other congregational and non-breeding sites along raptor flyways, and:

- a) make recommendations on how these might be filled; and,
- b) advise on appropriate approaches for the conservation and management of critical areas.

3. Under Task 2.5, BirdLife International is leading the following process on behalf of TAG:

- Identify a sub-set (c.10) of Annex 1 species (including species with different ecologies and migration strategies) with inputs from TAG concerning an initial analysis of the comprehensiveness of the site network.
- Characterise movement pattern / degree of congregation / dispersion for each species during breeding, passage and non-breeding periods.
- Analyse coverage of each species' range in Africa-Eurasia by the network of proposed Table 3 List of Sites in relation to the different annual cycle stages (breeding, passage, non-breeding, including for IBAs which criterion the species triggers at each site).
- Identify species and annual cycle stages / geographic areas which constitute gaps regarding identification of the Table 3 List of Sites (i.e. species / annual cycle stages where the species is likely to congregate at sites in sufficient numbers to qualify the site as internationally important).

- Additionally, identify species and annual cycle stages / geographic areas for which a site based approach to conservation might not be appropriate (because the species is unlikely to congregate in sufficient numbers to qualify sites to be considered of international importance), and where other measures may be more effective in conserving the species.
- Where genuine gaps in the site network for species are identified, recommend appropriate measures for filling these gaps and improving the comprehensiveness of the site network for those species.
- Highlight knowledge gaps identified (For example, regarding migratory movements) and recommend measures to address these.
- Share the draft analyses with TAG and incorporate their feedback.
- If TAG considers that this pilot species approach has yielded useful results, and if the proposed draft Table 3 List of Sites is adopted by Signatories, a subsequent phase of work could involve an analysis of the African-Eurasian ranges of all Annex 1 listed species covered by the site network.

Analysing the degree of protection afforded to the draft Table 3 (List of Sites) network for Annex 1 species

4. Activity 5, Task 5.12 c) is to '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'.
5. Under Task 5.12c), BirdLife International is leading the following process on behalf of TAG:
 - Potentially using the same sub-set (c10) of Annex 1 species as for Activity 2, Task 2.5, carry out sample analysis of the degree of protection of the draft Table 3 (List of Sites) network to test the proposed methodology.
 - In Europe, for Special Protection Areas (SPAs), explore what relevant information national reporting may offer and, for IBAs, make use of the existing IBA monitoring dataset.
 - Carry out spatial analysis overlaying protected planet data with a spatial layer of relevant draft Table 3 (List of Sites) to assess protection status of these sites for the selected sub-set of species.
 - Consider the utility of existing available spatial datasets on forest loss.
 - If TAG considers that this pilot species approach has yielded useful results, and if the proposed draft Table 3 (List of Sites) is adopted by Signatories, a subsequent phase of work could involve extending the analysis to cover all of the Table 3 (List of Sites) and examining them from both from a species and geographic area viewpoint.

Selection of pilot species

6. TAG members are invited to contribute to the selection of the pilot species to be used for these analyses of the draft network of sites, which should represent a variety of different taxa, geographic ranges, Annex 3, Table 1 Categories (i.e. IUCN threat status) and strategies in terms of migratory

movement / spatial distribution (e.g. congregatory versus dispersed during breeding, passage, non-breeding / wintering, migrating on a broad front versus funnelling along tightly defined routes).

7. Two Annexes are presented to support the deliberations by TAG. Annex 1 to this document contains the latest draft of Annex 3, Table 1 (Categorisation of species listed on the Raptors MOU) which had already been considered by TAG via the online WorkSpace. Annex 2 contains, for 21 candidate pilot species selected from Annex 1 to the Raptors MOU (List of Species), information on their distribution within the African-Eurasian region and their aggregatory behaviour (at different stages of their annual cycle) derived from a literature review. TAG are invited to review this information and select approximately 10 pilot species for further site network analysis that represent a variety of taxa, geographic ranges, Annex 3, Table 1 Categories (i.e. IUCN threat status) and spatial distribution / migratory behaviour.

Action requested

TAG is requested to contribute knowledge and expertise to the selection of a representative sample of c.10 species from Annex 1 (List of Species) to the Raptors MOU, to be used in pilot analyses to test the potential effectiveness of the draft Annex 3, Table 3 (List of Sites).