



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

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

ROLE OF TAG IN PROPOSING AMENDMENTS TO THE RAPTORS MOU AND ITS ANNEXES

Prepared by Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MOU

1. According to Rule 16 of Rules of Procedure for Meetings of Signatories (MOSs) to the Raptors MOU (Annex 1 to this document), the role of the TAG is to: (a) make proposals for amendment of the MOU; (b) circulate its proposals, via the Coordinating Unit, to Signatories; and, (c) comment on proposed amendments from Signatories.
2. Additionally, paragraph 4 of the TAG Terms of Reference (Annex 2 to this document) establish that one of the main tasks of the TAG is to make recommendations, particularly concerning the content of Annexes 1, 2 and 3 of the Raptors MOU; and, to provide comments on proposals to amend the MOU text which have a technical content.
3. In advance of MOS1 and MOS2, no proposals for adding species to Annex 1 were received from Signatories. However, if a Signatory wishes to submit a proposal for a species to be added (or removed) from Annex 1 of the MOU, it should be sent to the Coordinating Unit at least 150 days before the next MOS. There is no form for species proposals, but a proposal letter with supporting scientific rationale should be emailed to the Coordinating Unit. The Coordinating Unit is required to share such proposals to TAG (and all Signatories) within two weeks of receipt. TAG would have up until 60 days before MOS to comment on the proposal (the same deadline as for Signatories). Any comments made by TAG (or Signatories) would be shared with all Signatories by the Coordinating Unit, as stipulated in Rule 16 of the Rules of Procedure for MOSs.
4. Should TAG decide support for the proposal received from a Signatory was unwarranted, this advice would be communicated to all Signatories by the Coordinating Unit. In addition, the proponent Signatory would also be approached directly by the Coordinating Unit seeking guidance on whether or not they wished to withdraw their proposal. Should the Signatory reaffirm their wish to submit the proposal for consideration at the next MOS, this would be actioned by the Coordinating Unit with the advice from TAG published alongside the proposal. This procedure is not currently specified in the Rules of Procedure.
5. There are currently no forms or templates to propose amendments to the MOU text or the Annexes of the MOU, except for proposing new sites to be included in Annex 3 Table 3 of the MOU. The form was introduced prior Raptors MOS2 and can be found in Annex 3 to this meeting document, including categories and criteria used to select Important Bird Areas.
6. Further consideration is required to develop and document an outline mechanism for future engagement by TAG in the process to select and assess nominations for the List of Sites (Table 3 of Annex 3 to the Raptors MOU).
7. At TAG3, members will be invited to consider how best they can deploy their expertise in supporting the development and assessment of proposals to amend technical aspects of the Raptors

MOU and its Annexes, and to suggest whether or not any changes should be made to the Rules of Procedure for MOSs and/or the Terms of Reference for the TAG.

Action requested

TAG is requested to consider and agree outline mechanisms to effectively implement its role in proposing and assessing proposals to amend technical aspects of the Raptors MOU and its Annexes.

Annex 1:

**RULES OF PROCEDURE
FOR MEETINGS OF SIGNATORIES TO THE RAPTORS MOU**

(Adopted at MoS2)

Rule 1 – Purpose

1. These Rules of Procedure shall apply to the Meeting of Signatories to the Memorandum on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in African and Eurasia, hereinafter referred to as the “MoU”, convened in accordance with Paragraph 13 of the MoU.
2. Insofar as they are applicable, these Rules shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to any other meeting held in the framework of the MoU that does not have its own terms of reference or rules of procedure.

Rule 2 – Meetings of the Signatories

1. Meetings of the Signatories (MoS) shall take place once every three years, unless the MoS decides otherwise.
2. At each meeting, the MoS shall decide on the date, venue and duration of its next meeting.
3. Unless there is an offer from a Signatory, the MoS shall take place at the seat of the Coordinating Unit or another United Nations duty station taking into consideration cost-effectiveness.
4. The Coordinating Unit shall notify the venue and the dates of each MoS at least six months before the meeting is due to commence. The notification shall include a deadline for submission of proposals to be discussed at the meeting.
5. Documents for MoS shall be made available at least thirty days before the start of the meeting.

Rule 3 – Signatories

1. Each Signatory to the MoU, hereinafter referred to as a “Signatory”, shall be entitled to be represented at the meeting by a delegation consisting of a Head of Delegation and such Alternative Representative(s) and Advisers as the Signatory may deem necessary.
2. The Representative of a Signatory shall exercise the voting rights of that Signatory. In their absence, an Alternative Representative of that Signatory shall act in their place over the full range of their functions.
3. Logistical and other limitations may require that no more than three delegates of any Signatory be present at the meeting. The Coordinating Unit shall notify Signatories of any such limitations in advance of the meeting.

Rule 4 – Observers

1. The United Nations, its Specialized Agencies, and any State not a Signatory to the MoU may be represented at the meeting by Observers who shall have the right to participate but not to vote.
2. Co-operating Partners that have signed the MoU shall have the right to participate but not to vote.
3. Any agency or body technically qualified in the protection, conservation and management of migratory birds of prey, and which has informed the Coordinating Unit of its desire to be represented at the meeting by Observers, shall be permitted to be represented unless at least one-third of the Signatories present object. Once admitted, these Observers shall have the right to participate but not to vote.

4. Bodies and agencies desiring to be represented at the meeting by Observers shall submit the names of their representatives to the Coordinating Unit prior to the opening of the meeting.

5. Logistical and other limitations may require that no more than two Observers from any non-Signatory State, body or agency be present at the meeting. The Coordinating Unit shall notify Observers of any such limitations in advance of the meeting.

Rule 5 – Credentials

1. The Head of Delegation, any Alternative Representative(s) or other members of the delegation of a Signatory shall have been granted permission by, or on behalf of, an appropriate authority, being the Minister of the focal Ministry for the MoU or a higher body, or the competent authority of any Regional Economic Integration Organization (REIO), enabling the delegation to fully represent the Signatory at the meeting and to vote.

2. The credentials shall include: the full title and date of the meeting; a full list of representatives authorized to represent the Signatory and to transact all such matters with an indication of who is the Head of Delegation; a full signature of the appropriate authority as indicated above and printed on official letterhead, preferably with a seal, clearly indicating that the credentials have been issued by the appropriate authority. Prior to the Meeting, the Coordinating Unit shall provide a credentials template as an example.

3. The credentials shall be submitted in their original form to the Coordinating Unit within 24 hours of the start of the meeting. If credentials are presented in a language other than one of the two working languages of the MoU they shall be accompanied by an official translation into English or French.

4. The secretariat, in consultation with the Chair or the Vice-Chair, shall examine the credentials submitted and report to the MoS thereon for final approval. Pending a decision on their credentials, delegates may participate provisionally at the meeting.

Rule 6 – Secretariat

The Coordinating Unit shall service and act as secretariat for the meeting.

Rule 7 – Officers

At its first plenary session the meeting shall appoint a Chair and a Vice-Chair.

Rule 8 – Seating

Delegations shall be seated in accordance with standard United Nations practice which uses the alphabetical order of the full official names of the Signatories in the English language.

Rule 9 - Quorum

No MoS shall take place in the absence of a quorum. A quorum for a MoS shall consist of one quarter of the Signatories. A quorum for plenary sessions shall consist of one-half of the Signatories having delegations at the MoS.

Rule 10 – Speakers

1. The Chair shall call upon speakers in the order in which they indicate their desire to speak, with precedence given to Signatories, followed by non-Signatory Range States, Co-operating Partners and other Observers, in that order. A Representative of a Signatory or an Observer may speak only if called upon by the Chair, who may call a speaker to order if the remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

2. The Chair may, in the course of discussion at the meeting, propose to the meeting *inter alia*:
 - (a) Time limits for speakers;
 - (b) Limitations on the number of times members of a Signatory's delegation or Observers may speak on any subject;
 - (c) The closure of the list of speakers;
 - (d) The adjournment or the closure of the debate on the particular subject under discussion;
 - (e) The suspension or adjournment of the meeting.
3. The Chair, in the exercise of the functions of that office, remains under the authority of the MoS.

Rule 11 – Procedural Motions

During the discussion of any matter, a delegate representing a Signatory may make a point of order. The point of order shall be immediately decided by the Chair. A delegate representing a Signatory may appeal against any ruling of the Chair. The appeal shall immediately be put to a vote, and the Chair's ruling shall stand unless a majority of the Signatories present and voting decides otherwise.

Rule 12 – Voting

1. The Signatories shall make every effort to reach agreement on all matters of substance by consensus. If all efforts to reach consensus have been exhausted and no agreement reached, subject to paragraph 4 below, the decision shall, as a last resort, be taken by a two-thirds majority vote of the Signatories present. Votes on procedural matters shall be decided by a simple majority of votes cast.
2. Without prejudice to the provisions of Rule 3, paragraph 2, each Representative duly accredited according to Rule 5 shall have one vote. Regional Economic Integration Organizations that are Signatories to this MoU shall, in matters within their competence, exercise their voting rights with a number of votes equal to the number of their Member States which are Signatories to the MoU. An REIO shall not exercise its right to vote if its Member States exercise theirs, and vice versa.
3. The meeting shall vote by a show of hands. The Chair may in an exceptional case request a roll-call vote. The roll-call vote shall be taken in the seating order of the delegations.
4. Decisions on financial matters and on amendments to the MoU shall be taken by consensus.

Rule 13 – Committees and Working Groups

1. The MoS may establish such Committees and Working Groups as may be necessary to enable it to carry out its functions.
2. Unless otherwise decided, each Committee and Working Group shall elect its own officers. As a general rule, sessions of Committees and Working Groups shall be open to Signatories and Observers, unless the Chair of the Committee or Working Group, on request of a Signatory, determines otherwise.

Rule 14 – Languages

1. English and French, the working languages of the MoU, shall be the working languages of the meeting. Interventions made in one of the working languages shall be interpreted into the other working language. The official documents of the meeting shall be produced in both working languages.
2. A delegate may speak in a language other than a working language. They shall be responsible for providing interpretation into a working language, and interpretation into the other working language may be based upon that interpretation. Any document submitted to the Coordinating Unit in any language other than a working language shall be accompanied by an appropriate translation into one of the working languages.

3. Interpretation shall not be provided during meetings of the Committees or Working Groups, unless resources are made available for that purpose

Rule 15 – Records

Summary records of the MoS in English and French shall be circulated.

Rule 16 – Amendments to the MoU

1. The MoU (including the Annexes thereto) may be amended at any session of the MoS.
2. Proposals for amendment may only be made by one or more Signatories or by the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to the Raptors MoU.
3. The process and timing for submission of proposals for amendment is as follows:
 - (a) The text of any proposed amendment, with supporting rationale included, and if appropriate, supporting scientific evidence, shall be provided by Signatories to the Coordinating Unit at least 150 days before the MoS or by the TAG at least 90 days before the MoS at which it is to be considered.
 - (b) The Coordinating Unit shall, within 14 days of receipt, communicate the proposal to all Signatories, and, in the case of technical amendments, to the TAG.
 - (c) Comments on the proposed amendment may be provided to the Coordinating Unit by Signatories or by TAG up to 60 days before the MoS.
 - (d) The Coordinating Unit shall communicate any comments received to the Signatories as soon as possible after receipt.

Rule 17 – Procedure

These Rules of Procedure shall enter into effect immediately after their adoption. Amendments to these Rules shall be adopted by consensus by the MoS.

Rule 18 – Authority

In the event of a conflict between any provision of these rules and any clause of the MoU, the MoU shall prevail.

Annex 2:

Terms of Reference for the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors MoU)

Purpose and Main Tasks

1. The purpose of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) is to serve and assist the Signatories in the effective implementation of the Raptors MoU, including the Action Plan.
2. Members of the TAG serve in their capacity as specialist individuals rather than as representatives of Governments or organizations with which they also may be affiliated.
3. The Coordinating Unit (CU) of the Raptors MoU will serve to receive and transmit requests from the Signatories for advice from the TAG.
4. 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 CU, as requested;
 - b) Analyse, as necessary, scientific advice and assessments and to make recommendations, particularly concerning the content of Annexes I, II and III, 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 CU at least 60 days in advance of the meeting; and,
 - e) Carry out any other tasks referred to it by the Meeting of Signatories (MoS).

Size and Composition

5. Membership of the TAG shall comprise persons operating in their personal capacity, and qualified as specialists in raptor research, conservation and/or management. In appointing persons to the TAG, the MoS should strive to achieve a balance amongst areas of expertise especially in the context of delivery of advice requested of it, and the need for representation of those geographic regions with few Signatories.
6. Membership shall include:
 - a) Ten persons nominated by Signatories from the four main geo-political regions covered by the Raptors MoU, namely: Africa¹ (excluding North Africa) – three representatives; Asia² – two representatives; Europe³ – three representatives; and, the Middle East and North Africa⁴ – two representatives;
 - b) Up to five other experts;
 - c) One person nominated by BirdLife International – the IUCN nominated authority on birds; and,
 - d) To promote synergies and co-operation, observers from the African-Eurasian Waterbirds Technical Committee, the CMS Landbirds Action Plan and Co-operating Partners may attend at their own cost.
7. The Chair of the TAG may additionally invite a small number of other experts to attend meetings to provide additional specific expertise not represented within the TAG, where this is relevant to advice requested by the MoS.

Criteria and characteristics of candidate TAG members

8. Candidates for appointment as members of the TAG should have the following:

- a) Demonstrated capacity for networking with other experts in raptor research, conservation and/or management of species and their habitats at local, national and international scales, and demonstrated engagement in such expert networks; and/or,
- b) Widely recognized experience and expertise in one or more aspects of raptor research, conservation and/or management of species and their habitats, particularly those relevant to the tasks identified by the MoS for the forthcoming work of the TAG;
- c) Experience of working with raptor experts at local, national and international levels;
- d) Full access to electronic mail and web-based information and communication systems, through which the intersessional work of the TAG will take place; and,
- e) Commitment to undertake the work required of the TAG with the support, where relevant, of the member's organization or institution.

Nomination and Appointment

9. For the period from MoS1 to MoS2, the following procedure shall apply:

- a) Signatories will submit nominations for members of an Interim TAG to the Coordination Unit by 28 February 2013 including detailed information on the professional background and expertise of the nominee (e.g. Curriculum Vitae);
- b) A Panel comprising the CU's Programme Officer and Executive Coordinator, the Chair of MoS1 and the Executive Secretary of CMS, will select members with regional and other expertise to serve on the Interim TAG based on an appropriate balance of geographic and other experience, and having regard to the tasks indicated as priorities by MoS1 (Annex);
- c) Members of the Interim TAG will serve until MoS2 when the procedures set out in paragraph 10 will apply; and,
- d) Procedures related to the Interim TAG, once established, will otherwise be the same as for the TAG established at MoS2 as outlined by these Terms of Reference.

10. From MoS2, the following procedure shall apply:

- a) Each Signatory may nominate one individual (regardless of their nationality) as a candidate for regional representative to the TAG in accordance with Paragraph 5.
- b) Nominations for any vacancies should be provided in writing to the CU at least 180 days in advance of the MoS and should include detailed information on the professional background and expertise of the nominee (e.g. Curriculum Vitae).
- c) The regional representatives and other experts will be appointed by the MoS at the recommendation of a Panel which shall comprise the current Chair and Vice-chair of the TAG, and the CU's Programme Officer and Executive Coordinator. The Panel will be chaired by the TAG Chair.

11. TAG members should serve for a period of two regular Meetings of Signatories and in exceptional cases, where the MoS so decides, may be nominated for a third term.

12. The CU should inform the Signatories and Co-operating Partners of any vacancies arising from the expiry of a term or other reason, such as voluntary resignation.

13. Should a vacancy arise intersessionally, the Chair of the TAG may propose a replacement for consideration by the Signatories. The proposal shall be communicated to the Signatories of the region concerned by the CU and shall be accompanied by the same information on the professional background of the nominee as would be required for a regular nomination. In the absence of any objections from the Signatories of the region concerned, within 30 days of the communication from the CU, the interim appointment will be considered as having been accepted, and will become effective immediately. If an objection is raised by a Signatory, the procedure may be repeated, as appropriate, until an acceptable candidate is identified. The term of appointment of the provisional nominee shall expire at the end of the next MoS, unless re-appointed by the MoS further to paragraph 11.

Officers

14. The TAG shall select from its regional representatives a Chair and a Vice-Chair, who shall be the principle point of contact between the TAG and the CU.

15. The Chair of the TAG should participate as an observer in Meetings of Signatories, and may also participate, if funding permits, in the meetings of related and associated agreements and organisations that the Signatories deem relevant to the work of the Raptors MoU. The other members of the TAG may participate as observers in the Meetings of Signatories.

16. The Chair of the TAG shall co-ordinate the production of the report of the Group's work to each session of the Meeting of Signatories further to paragraph 4d above.

17. The Vice-Chair shall assist in the execution of the Chair's functions, and shall preside over meetings in the absence of the Chair.

Modus Operandi

18. In order to conduct its business efficiently and to minimize costs, the TAG should operate through electronic means whenever possible.

19. Where the need arises, and finances permit, face-to-face meetings of the TAG should be convened by the Chair of the Group in consultation with the Coordinating Unit, and where possible hosted by a Signatory to the Raptors MoU. Where necessary and feasible, participation in TAG meetings can also be undertaken by teleconference or web-based conferencing systems.

20. Notice of meetings of the TAG, including the date and venue, shall be sent to all members of the Group by the Coordinating Unit at least 60 days in advance.

21. Recommendations of the TAG shall be adopted by consensus unless a vote is requested by the Chair or by three members.

22. A summary record of each TAG meeting shall be prepared by the CU as soon as possible and shall be communicated to all members, circulated to Signatories and made available on the MoU web-site.

23. The documents for each meeting of the TAG shall be distributed to its members by the CU at least 30 days before the opening of the meeting. At the discretion of the Chair, in exceptional circumstances documents may be accepted after these deadlines, but not later than two weeks before the meeting. Documents will be distributed electronically.

¹ Africa includes the following 48 countries (21 Signatories): **Angola**, Benin, Botswana, **Burkina Faso**, **Burundi**, Cameroon, Cabo Verde, Central African Republic, **Chad**, **Comoros**, **Congo**, **Côte d'Ivoire**, **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, **Equatorial Guinea**, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, **Gambia**, **Ghana**, **Guinea**, Guinea-Bissau, **Kenya**, Lesotho, Liberia, **Madagascar**, Malawi, **Mali**, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, **Niger**, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, **Senegal**, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, **Somalia**, **South Africa**, South Sudan, **Sudan**, Swaziland, **Togo**, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

² Asia includes the following 15 countries (4 Signatories): Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, **India**, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, **Mongolia**, **Nepal**, **Pakistan**, People's Republic of China, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

³ Europe includes the following 49 countries and the **European Union** (23 Signatories): Albania, Andorra, **Armenia**, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, **Belgium**, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, **Croatia**, Cyprus, **Czech Republic**, **Denmark (Incl. Faeroe Islands and Greenland)**, Estonia, **Finland (Incl. Åland Islands)**, **France (Incl. Mayotte and Reunion)**, Georgia, **Germany**, Greece, **Hungary**, Iceland, Ireland, **Israel**, **Italy**, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, **Luxembourg**, Malta, **Monaco**, Montenegro, **Netherlands**, **Norway (Incl. Svalbard and Jan Mayen Islands)**, Poland, **Portugal**, Republic of Moldova, **Romania**, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, **Slovakia**,

Slovenia, **Spain (Incl. the Canary Islands)**, **Sweden**, **Switzerland**, The FYR of Macedonia, Ukraine, **United Kingdom (Incl. Jersey, Guernsey, Isle of Man, Cyprus sovereign bases and Gibraltar)** and Vatican City.

⁴ Middle East and North Africa includes the following 20 countries (12 Signatories): Algeria, Bahrain, **Djibouti**, **Egypt**, **Iran**, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, **Lebanon**, **Libya**, **Morocco**, Oman, Palestinian Authority Territories, Qatar, **Saudi Arabia**, **Sudan**, **Syrian Arab Republic**, **Tunisia**, **United Arab Emirates** and **Yemen**.

*Note: Terms of Reference adopted at the First Meeting of Signatories to the Raptors MoU in December 2012. Footnote updated to include South Sudan (new Range State as agreed at the Second Meeting of Signatories in October 2015); and the new **Signatories** to the Raptors MoU (as at 1 April 2018), highlighted in bold.

Annex 3:

Form to propose internationally important sites for addition to Table 3 of the Raptors MoU

Completed Forms (including associated maps) should be returned electronically to the Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MoU at: 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 Areas¹ or EC Birds Directive Special Protection Areas². 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) ^a	Site Type(s) ^b	Site Code ^c	Geographic Coordinates ^d	Site Boundary Provided? ^e	Annex 1 of Raptors MoU species ^f for which site is important	Season ^g	Supporting Count Data ^h	International Criteria Met ⁱ	Comments

¹ <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/info/ibacriteria>

² 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 are met by Raptors MoU Annex 1 species at the site.

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 criteria³ 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

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.

³ <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/info/ibacriteria>

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.