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**SUMMARY OF THE ANSWERS RECEIVED TO NOTIFICATION 2025/018 -
CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN-EURASIAN VULTURES: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
ON IMPLEMENTATION OF CMS DECISIONS 14.148-14.151**

*(Prepared by the Coordinating Unit of the Memorandum of Understanding on the
conservation of migratory birds of prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors MOU))*

Summary:

This information document summarizes the replies received on the implementation of Decision 14:148 - 14.151 following Notification 2025/018. It also analyses challenges in the implementation of the Decisions, lessons learnt and provides policy recommendations.

All replies received are provided in the Annex of this document.

SUMMARY OF THE ANSWERS RECEIVED TO NOTIFICATION 2025/018 - CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN-EURASIAN VULTURES: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON IMPLEMENTATION OF CMS DECISIONS 14.148-14.151

Background

The Conference of the Parties at its 14th meeting (COP14), adopted [Resolution 12.10 \(Rev. COP14\) Conservation of African-Eurasian Vultures](#), along with the [Multi-species Action Plan to Conserve African-Eurasian Vultures \(Vulture MsAP\)](#), urging Parties and encouraging non-Party Range States, partners and stakeholders to implement the plan as a matter of priority taking into consideration the Mid-Term Implementation Review.

In the same occasion, Parties adopted Decisions 14.148-14.155 on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Vultures. On 2 July 2025, CMS Secretariat issued [Notification 2025/018 Conservation of African-Eurasian Vultures: Request for Information on Implementation of CMS Decisions 14.148-14.151](#).

The webinar

As a way to facilitate Parties reporting to the Secretariat on their efforts to implement the Vulture Multi-species Action Plan (Vulture MsAP) and in particular on decisions 14.148-14.151, a webinar was held on 15 July 2025. It was attended by Croatia, Bangladesh, Italy, Hungary, Ethiopia, Israel, Nigeria, South Africa, Georgia, Togo, France. Representatives from BirdLife International, International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey, and Nigeria Conservation Foundation.

The questionnaire was composed of 13 questions based on the Decisions 14.148 and 14.149 and directed to Parties, non-Party Range States, Raptors MOU Signatories and stakeholders. A second set of 9 questions referred to Decisions 14.150 and 14.151 directed to West African Parties and Range States (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo) were.

The replies

The Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MOU received answers from: Belgium, Croatia, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Italy, Morocco, Pakistan, España and Togo. The replies are summarized below, while the replies are provided in Annex 1.

Partnerships and Anti-Poaching Initiatives

Several countries have developed partnerships with anti-poaching initiatives and conservation groups to combat the poisoning of vultures and other animals. In Croatia, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Green Transition collaborates with NGOs and the Public Institution "Priroda" to fight the illegal killing and poisoning of griffon vultures. Croatia also participates in projects like LIFE SUPport and LIFE Against Bird Crime, which focus on preventing wildlife poisoning that affects griffon vultures, bears, wolves, and lynx. Furthermore, Croatia is engaged in the BalkanDetox LIFE project, which aims to strengthen institutional and technical capabilities for addressing wildlife poisoning across Balkan countries. These partnerships aid in the early detection and response to poisoning incidents affecting various taxonomic groups. Similarly, Italy has established operational partnerships through the LIFE ANTIDOTO project to address the poisoning of large carnivores and raptors. In Spain, the Ministry supports organizations that combat wildlife crime through co-funding and participating in LIFE projects such as Guardians and SWIPE. Morocco also considers civil

society and professional groups, like hunters, as key partners in the fight against poaching, as they report and share information about wildlife-related crimes.

Training Courses

Several countries have developed training courses to support vulture conservation efforts. Croatia has included educational and capacity-building activities in its draft Griffon Vulture Management Plan. These activities include workshops and specialized training sessions on:

- Identifying and properly handling poisoning incidents.
- Post-mortem analysis and toxicological sampling techniques for veterinary and forensic staff.
- Field monitoring, GPS tracking, and safe handling of vultures for conservation practitioners.
- Awareness and prevention strategies for poisoning and disturbance.
- Institutions like the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Zagreb have also organized field-based training for protected area staff, hunters, and livestock owners. In France, meetings held in conjunction with the LIFE project led to the creation of a specialized dog team to search for poisoned bait and to schedule training on judicial investigations and criminal cases related to poisoning incidents. Morocco has organized training sessions on the handling and treatment of seized or distressed animals, including vultures. In Spain, ongoing technical and legal training is provided to police and environmental agents on illegal wildlife capture practices and the associated judicial and administrative actions for their prosecution.

Best Practices

Countries have translated and disseminated examples of best practices for vulture conservation. In Croatia, best practices are mainly shared through EU-funded LIFE projects, such as LIFE SUPport, which presents examples of good practices for reducing electrocution risks on power poles and for sheep husbandry. Croatia has also conducted a study visit to Bulgaria to facilitate knowledge and best practice transfer regarding vulture conservation methods. In France, a National Action Plan (NAP) aims to improve food availability for vultures by strengthening wild ungulate populations, maintaining extensive pastoralism, and providing artificial food support. Morocco shares the successes of raptor recovery centers through organized visits and disseminates information via publications, reports, and social media. Spain promotes good practices by sharing guidelines on work protocols, providing training courses on fighting biodiversity threats, and promoting new laws on the use of lead shots.

Protocols and Regulations

Countries have shared protocols and regulations to support vulture conservation. Croatia's Nature Protection Act regulates rescue centers for critically endangered and strictly protected species. The draft Griffon Vulture Management Plan in Croatia provides guidelines and procedures for monitoring and reporting poisoning incidents, as well as for the rescue and rehabilitation of injured or poisoned vultures. In France, 112 birds of prey were taken in, with 88 undergoing autopsy protocols and 97 analyses carried out in 2024. Spain has approved a new strategy to address the illegal use of poison baits and for the conservation of the bearded vulture. Pakistan, as part of the Regional Steering Committee of the Asia Vulture Recovery Programme, shares conservation activities with member countries.

Technology Transfer

Some countries have engaged in the transfer and application of relevant technologies. Croatia has implemented GPS tracking of griffon vultures to monitor their movement and identify threats such as poisoning or collision risks. This technology has been co-developed or obtained in cooperation with international partners. Spain also uses all available technological tools, including a satellite GPS tagging program, to improve knowledge on the ecology of target species and the threats they face.

Online Tools

Several countries have promoted the use of online tools for vulture conservation. Croatia encourages the use of online databases and platforms for reporting wildlife observations and mortality incidents. Websites from NGOs like BIOM and the Public Institution "Priroda" publish interactive materials and educational content to inform the public about vulture biology and conservation efforts. Online consultations were also conducted for the Griffon Vulture Management Plan to ensure public participation. France uses online tools through the "Life Gyp'ACT" project, while Spain indicated "Yes" to promoting the use of online tools.

National Strategies and Action Plans

Countries have developed and formally endorsed national strategies or action plans for vulture conservation. Croatia has a draft Griffon Vulture Management Plan that is in the final stages of adoption. France has created a new National Action Plan for the Bearded Vulture. Italy published a National Action Plan for the Egyptian vulture in 2009. Morocco is finalizing a national strategy for the conservation of birds of prey, including vultures. Pakistan has a National Vulture Conservation Strategy and Action Plan. While Spain has not developed a multispecies strategy for all five vulture species, it has other official national documents aligned with the MsAP priorities, such as the national strategy against the illegal use of poison baits and the conservation strategy for the Bearded Vulture. Spain also has 16 regional conservation plans for vultures in 11 different regional communities.

Challenges

Countries face various challenges in implementing conservation measures. Croatia cites limited financial resources and insufficient staff as major challenges, noting that funding is often project-based and conservation work is concentrated in a few institutions. There are also data gaps regarding mortality causes and the effectiveness of mitigation measures, and a need for improved cross-border cooperation. In Ethiopia, the government allocates very little or no funding to conservation due to prioritizing other development projects. Morocco also requires more financial and material resources for conservation efforts and seeks international cooperation for funding and capacity building. Morocco notes that it is becoming more difficult to secure funding specifically for species conservation, as donors often require projects to incorporate broader themes like climate change. Spain's main challenge is improving national and EU regulations to ban lead ammunition and reduce the use of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides, which are negatively impacting raptor populations. Togo's scientific expertise is available, but the country lacks the financial resources to conduct data collection missions in the field.

Lessons Learned

A key lesson learned is that effective vulture conservation is **comprehensive** and requires a combination of partnerships at national and international levels, funding, training, and appropriate technology. International cooperation and knowledge transfer, as demonstrated through participation in projects like LIFE and study visits, are crucial for adopting effective strategies and technologies such as GPS tracking and anti-poisoning measures. Engaging a diverse range of stakeholders, including NGOs, government bodies, veterinary services, hunters, and local communities, is essential for successful implementation and raising public awareness. A significant challenge remains the limited financial resources and staffing, which often results in conservation efforts being reliant on short-term, project-based funding rather than sustained support. Additionally, data gaps persist, particularly regarding the causes of mortality and the effectiveness of mitigation measures.

Conclusions Policy Recommendations

The [Mid-term Implementation Review of the CMS Multi-species Action Plan for African-Eurasian Vultures](#) provides important insights into the level of engagement and the implementation of objectives and activities. Based on the feedback and analysis, the following recommendations are made to improve the plan's implementation and to provide impetus for its review and update before 2029:

- **Overall Support and Engagement:** There is a need for a significant increase in effort to support and provide critical resources for the implementation and achievement of objectives. Greater engagement and financial support from Range State governments and major donor institutions should be encouraged, especially in regions that have faced challenges and insufficient support.
- **Continued Focus on Essential Actions:** Range States and stakeholders are encouraged to pay particular attention to, and support, the 17 essential/critical actions listed in the CMS Vulture MsAP. Effective implementation of these actions is imperative to halt the decline in Old World vulture populations.
- **Assistance with the Proposed Implementation Framework:** Donors are encouraged to support the establishment of an Implementation Framework and to contract relevant staff capacity to coordinate work associated with the Vulture MsAP. This will provide greater impetus and the ability to evaluate the effective implementation of the plan's actions across the range.
- **Building Capacity for Implementation:** Multiple partners have highlighted the need for additional skilled human resources to implement conservation activities.

Policy Recommendations:

- Member states should secure **stable and long-term funding** for vulture conservation initiatives to ensure their continuous implementation.
- It is recommended that national and regional regulations be strengthened to prohibit and replace harmful substances, such as **lead ammunition** and **anticoagulant rodenticides**, which pose a significant threat to vulture populations.
- Furthermore, national strategies or action plans for vulture conservation should be formally endorsed and integrated into revised **National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)** to ensure a cohesive and coordinated approach.
- Finally, enhanced **cross-border cooperation** and information sharing are necessary to address threats to migratory vultures, which often face dangers in countries along their flyways.

REPLIES RECEIVED FROM THE QUESTIONNAIRES

Questions directed to Parties, non-Party Range States Raptors MOU Signatories and stakeholders

1) *Has your country developed any of the following activities relevant to the implementation of the Vulture Multi-species Action Plan (Vulture MsAP)?*

a) Developed partnerships with anti-poaching initiatives and conservation groups concerned with poisoning of other taxonomic groups.

Croatia

Collaboration between the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Green Transition and NGOs through their project implementation and Public Institution "Priroda" of Primorje-Gorski Kotar County (certified rescue center for Griffon vultures), is aimed at combating poisoning and illegal killing of Griffon vultures. Cooperation is seen through the network of licensed wildlife rehabilitation centres, coordinated by the Ministry. These centres collaborate with veterinary services, NGOs, and enforcement authorities to address illegal poisoning, poaching, and care for injured wildlife, including vultures and other protected species. These partnerships support early detection and response to poisoning incidents across taxonomic groups. Participation in LIFE projects, including LIFE SUPport and LIFE Against Bird Crime, which focus on preventing wildlife poisoning affecting griffon vultures as well as other protected species such as bears, wolves, and lynx. Engagement in regional initiatives, such as the BalkanDetox LIFE project, which connects Balkan countries to strengthen institutional and technical capacities for addressing wildlife poisoning. These initiatives through projects included training for police officers, inspectors, and veterinary services, as well as the development of standardized protocols for investigation and response to poisoning incidents.

France

Assurer la coordination de la surveillance nationale toxicologique des oiseaux soumis à un Plan national d'actions (Milan royal, Gypaète barbu, Vautours moine, percnoptère, fauve, Aigle de Bonelli, Balbuzard pêcheur, Pygargue à queue blanche et Faucon crécerellette...) et d'espèces sentinelles.

Germany

<https://www.komitee.de/de/projekte/deutschland/greifvogelverfolgung-in-deutschland/>
<https://www.komitee.de/en/campaigns-and-operations/germany/raptor-persecution-in-germany/>.

[The project EDGAR - Registration and Documentation Centre for Raptor Persecution and Wildlife Crime - was funded by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) for three years from 1 August 2015 to 31 July 2018 with funds from the Federal Environment Ministry. Since then, the project has stood on its own two feet and is financed by supporter donations. Staff from CABS headquarters in Bonn, document all known cases of illegal bird of prey persecution in Germany, file criminal charges, advise reporters, witnesses and authorities, offer advice and guidance on site.]

Italy

In the past, Italy established operational partnerships with anti-poaching initiatives and conservation groups engaged in addressing the poisoning of large carnivores and necrophagous raptors through the LIFE ANTIDOTO project (LIFE07-NAT-IT-000436).

Morocco

Outre la coordination entre différents organes et corps de contrôle au niveau national, dont les agents forestiers, en matière de lutte contre le braconnage, la société civile et des groupements professionnels, notamment les chasseurs constituent des partenaires clés pour la lutte contre de tel acte, en leur signalant et communiquant des informations sur des cas de délits liés à la faune sauvage en général. Également, ces partenaires participent à la lutte contre le braconnage à travers des actions de sensibilisation du grand public. S'agissant de l'empoisonnement, bien que cette pratique semble être abandonnée par les éleveurs, sa confirmation ou son infirmation nécessite la mobilisation de plus de moyens techniques et de compétences en matière d'analyses et d'investigations.

Spain

Apoyo desde el Ministerio a organizaciones que luchan contra ilícitos contra la fauna silvestre, como la cofinanciación y participación en proyectos LIFE (Guardians, de SEO BirdLife, o SWIPE, de WWF)

*b) Developed training courses***Croatia**

Currently the Griffon Vulture Management Plan with Action Plan is developed and is in the process of final adoption. It contains educational and capacity-building activities as a key part of vulture conservation. These include workshops and specialized training sessions focused on:

- *Identification and proper handling of poisoning incidents;
- *Post-mortem analysis and toxicological sampling techniques for veterinary staff and *forensic laboratories;
- *Field monitoring, GPS tracking, and safe handling of vultures for conservation practitioners;
- *Awareness and prevention strategies for poisoning and disturbance.

Furthermore, institutions such as the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine University of Zagreb, in cooperation with nature conservation NGOs and Public Institution "Priroda" of Primorje-Gorski Kotar County, have organized field-based training for staff working in protected areas, hunters, and livestock owners.

These efforts shall contribute directly to strengthening national capacity to address vulture conservation challenges in line with CMS Raptors MoU and the Vulture MsAP.

France

Différentes réunions ont ainsi été organisées à l'occasion du LIFE avec la Gendarmerie Nationale, l'OFB et la magistrature pour renforcer notre capacité à agir pour donner suite à la découverte d'évènement d'empoisonnement. Ces réunions ont permis de convenir de la constitution d'un équipage cynophile spécialisé dans la recherche d'appâts empoisonnés et la programmation de formation sur la prise en charge des enquêtes judiciaires et l'instruction des dossiers pénaux.

Morocco

Des sessions de formation sur la manipulation et le traitement d'animaux saisis ou en détresse dont les vautours ont été organisées.

Spain

Formación continua en el ámbito técnico y legal a cuerpos policiales (SEPRONA) y agentes medioambientales sobre prácticas ilegales de captura de fauna y de actuaciones judiciales y administrativas para su persecución.

c) Translated and disseminated examples of best practice

Croatia

Best practices is mainly being presented in the framework of the EU funded LIFE projects, such as LIFE SUPport: i) examples of good practices of in reducing risks of electrocution on power polls, ii) sheep husbandry as a key to preserving Kvarner islands biodiversity.

During preparation of the proposal of Griffon vulture Management Plan with Action Plan in period 2017–2019, a study visit to Bulgaria was conducted specifically to establish expert contacts and facilitate knowledge and best practice transfer regarding vulture conservation methods, especially in relation to supplementary feeding, population monitoring, and stakeholder engagement. The resulting proposal of the management plan, developed by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Green Transition, its Institute for Environment and Nature Protection and NGO BIOM, includes materials and adapted practices sourced mostly from European conservation efforts. These materials have been shared with stakeholders including public institutions, protected area managers, local communities, and livestock owners.

Additionally, best practice examples (e.g., on anti-poisoning measures, feeding station protocols, GPS tracking of vultures) were disseminated via workshops, printed materials, and online platforms. Under the workshops the best practices of the steel shot was presented for prevention of led poisoning (steel shots were distributed among hunters in the areas of G. vulture distribution). Regarding the prevention of the electrocution and collision with the energy infrastructure, the best practices and solutions were presented in cooperation with national energy company (HEP) which is implementing these measures on the field. these measures were presentet to County administrative departments which assess projects and prescribe special conditions for the construction of the electricity network in protected areas under the jurisdiction of counties.

France

Les vautours remplissent un rôle d'équarisseur naturel en se plaçant au bout de la chaîne trophique : ils se nourrissent des os de carcasses d'ongulés sauvages et domestiques. Or des études des populations d'ongulés ont montré que la ressource venait à se raréfier dans les Pyrénées jusqu'à devenir complètement insuffisante en Corse à cause de la disparition du pastoralisme ou de la raréfaction de certaines espèces d'ongulés. Les actions prévues dans le cadre des PNA pour améliorer la disponibilité en nourriture dans l'aire de répartition des vautours s'articulent autour de trois axes: le renforcement des populations d'ongulés sauvages (bouquetin des alpes, Cerf de Corse, Mouflon de Corse, bouquetin ibérique...), le maintien du pastoralisme extensif en petits ruminants avec la mise en place de contrats permettant la mise en œuvre d'équarrissage naturel et enfin le maintien du soutien alimentaire artificiel.

Morocco

les réussites que connaissent les centres de récupération des rapaces en matière de soins et de réhabilitation des rapaces dont les vautours constituent des bonnes pratiques que ces centres partagent à travers des visites organisées par différents profils (ornithologues, gestionnaires, vétérinaires...). Également, les efforts entrepris et les réussites sont diffusés à travers des publications et reportages à travers la presse écrite, électronique et réseaux sociaux.

Pakistan

Awareness raising activities and training workshops.

Spain

Difusión de buenas prácticas como son manuales de aplicación de protocolos de trabajo, cursos de formación con ejemplos de sistemas de lucha contra amenazas de la biodiversidad

(a nivel nacional e internacional), divulgación de la nueva legislación sobre uso de munición con plomo, nuevas evidencias y divulgación sobre el impacto de rodenticidas anticoagulantes

d) Shared protocols and regulations

Croatia

Art. 67. of the Nature Protection Act (OG no. 80/13, 15/18, 14/19, 127/19, 155/23) regulates the rescue centers for critically endangered strictly protected species where individuals of vertebrates from nature, except for fish, which belong to a strictly protected species, and which are found exhausted, sick, injured, wounded or poisoned, are taken care of in rescue centers for the purpose of recovery and return to nature. Exceptionally, the provisions this article do not apply to strictly protected species that are managed according to the hunting regulation. The proposal of the Griffon Vulture Management Plan with Action Plan provides guidelines and foresees procedures related to:

- *Monitoring and reporting of poisoning and other incidents;
- *Rescue, rehabilitation, and release protocols for injured or poisoned vultures;
- *Regulation of feeding stations on the Cres Island, with strict sanitary guidelines.

These protocols are communicated with the national authority competent for veterinary and will be implemented in cooperation with stakeholders such as local authorities, veterinary institutions, nature conservation NGOs and the managers of protected areas.

Additionally, Croatia participates in regional and EU-level information exchange regarding wildlife crime and poisoning prevention in the framework of MIKT.

France

112 rapaces pris en charge dont 88 animaux ont fait l'objet des protocoles d'autopsie et 97 d'analyse ont été réalisées en 2024

Pakistan

Pakistan has been part of the Regional Steering Committee of the Asia Vulture Recovery Programme. Activities carried out for the conservation of the species are shared with the member countries.

Spain

Aprobación de la nueva estrategia de lucha contra el uso ilegal de cebos envenenados y de conservación del quebrantahuesos. Actualización de planes de conservación de especies amenazadas de buitres y otras rapaces en distintas regiones españolas.

e) Transferred technology

Croatia

Croatia has engaged in activities involving the transfer and application of relevant technologies to support the conservation of vultures, in line with the objectives of the Vulture Multi-species Action Plan (Vulture MsAP).

Croatia has implemented GPS tracking of Griffon Vultures to monitor their movement, habitat use, and migration. This technology has been used to better understand population dynamics and identify threats such as poisoning or collision risks. Some of these technologies have been obtained or co-developed in cooperation with international partners, such as research institutions and conservation NGOs from other EU countries.

The infrastructure and best practices for managing vulture feeding on the island of Cres have benefited from knowledge and technology exchanges with conservation experts from countries such as Spain and Italy, which have longer history of managing vulture populations and supplementary feeding programs.

Spain

Se emplean todas las herramientas tecnológicas disponibles para mejorar el conocimiento de la ecología de las especies objetivo y de sus amenazas, a través de programas de marcaje con GPS

f) Promoted the use of online tools

Croatia

Croatia has promoted the use of online tools in support of vulture conservation and awareness-raising. For example, monitoring and reporting platforms: The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Green Transition and relevant public institutions (e.g. Public Institution "Priroda") have encouraged the use of online databases and tools for reporting wildlife observations, mortality incidents (including suspected poisoning and/or hurting), and disturbance at breeding sites or strictly protected species in general (including Griffon vultures). These tools are contributing to national biodiversity monitoring systems and supporting regular data submission to EU platforms.

Websites for awareness raising and education of organizations such as NGO BIOM and the Public Institution "Priroda" have published interactive materials, maps, and educational content online, including through dedicated websites for the Griffon Vulture Recovery Centre on the island of Cres. These serve to inform the public, school groups, and tourists about vulture biology, threats, and conservation actions. Ministry through its social network platforms posted the relevant news on Vulture griffon population in Croatia.

As a part of the preparation of the Griffon Vulture Management Plan, public online consultations were conducted through the Croatian governmental platform "e-Savjetovanja". This ensured that all interested citizens and stakeholders could review and comment on the draft document, improving transparency and participation.

France

Life Gyp'ACT

Spain

Yes

2) *Has your country actively engaged with any of the following CMS Task Forces?*

a) CMS Energy Task Force

Ethiopia

We held two national workshops for awareness raising of different Stakeholders in 2022 and 2023.

France

Yes

Germany

Taken part in the meetings

Spain

Además de ser miembro de este grupo, España ha organizado la reunión del ETF7 en Madrid en 2024 y un representante del Ministerio es el chair de dicho ETF

- b) CMS regional task forces on illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds (MIKT, *ITTEA, SWA ITB TF*)

Croatia

Croatia is actively participating in the MIKT task force. The focal point for MIKT in Croatia is the nature protection inspector from the State Inspectorate of the Republic of Croatia. As a milestone in combating illegal killing, taking and trade of birds and other protected wild species, a proposal of national Action Plan to Combat Illegal Activities Against Wildlife for 2025–2028 is being developed by a cross-sectoral working group, coordinated by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Green Transition. It is expected to be adopted by the Government of the Republic of Croatia upon completion of the necessary governmental procedures

Germany

Taken part in the meetings

Italy

Italy has been actively involved in all activities of the MIKT

Morocco

le Maroc participe régulièrement aux réunions du groupe de travail sur MIKT, dont la dernière s'est tenue à Bonn, en présentiel ou à distance

Spain

Además de ser miembro del MIKT activo y de contribuir con toda la información solicitada (Scoreboard), se colabora en la presentación de ejemplos de buenas prácticas de lucha contra la captura ilegal de aves y se organizó la anterior reunión presencia del MIKT5 en Valencia en 2022

- c) *Intergovernmental Task Force on Phasing Out the Use of Lead Ammunition and Lead Fishing Weights*

Spain

España participa en este grupo aunque debido a que está poco activo su funcionamiento, no se ha realizado actividades recientemente.

- 3) *Has your country taken the findings of the Mid-Term Implementation Review into consideration while implementing the Vulture MsAP?*

Croatia

Croatia has taken into account the findings and recommendations of the Mid-Term Implementation Review of the Vulture Multi-species Action Plan (Vulture MsAP) in the planning and implementation of national conservation activities.

While the proposal of Griffon Vulture Management Plan was developed prior to the formal publication of the Mid-Term Review, its structure and priorities are aligned with the MTR key findings. For example, the proposal of the Plan addresses poisoning, electrocution, food shortages and disturbance, which were highlighted as priority threats in the MTR.

It includes monitoring frameworks, goals and measures such as supplementary feeding stations, public awareness raising efforts, and stakeholder engagement.

France

Yes

Pakistan

To some extent.

Spain

España contribuyó a la revisión intermedia del MsAP y las conclusiones obtenidas en dicha revisión se han tenido en cuenta para la actualización de dos documentos oficiales nacionales de planificación y conservación de especies objetivo: la estrategia nacional de lucha contra el uso ilegal de cebos envenenados y la estrategia de conservación del quebrantahuesos en España.

- 4) *Has your country supported (or plans to support) the upcoming Mid-Term Implementation Review of the Cinereous Vulture Flyway Action Plan?*

Spain

Yes

Togo

Le Togo prévoit de soutenir le prochain examen

- 5) *Has your country ensured that the national implementation of the Vulture MsAP integrates the findings of the Mid-term Review of the Vulture MsAP into their (revised) National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)?*

Croatia

While Croatia has aligned its proposal of the national Griffon Vulture Management Plan (2025–2035) with the goals of the Vulture MsAP, it is not integrated into Croatia's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) since it was adopted in 2017.

Currently the new Croatian NBSAP is in development which will be in line with the GBF. In this process the goals of the Vulture MsAP, the findings of the Mid-term Review will be integrated into Croatia's NBSAP."

Ethiopia

Yes

France

Yes

Pakistan

NBSAP is being revised and referred implementation are duly reflected in the document.

Spain

España contribuyó a la revisión intermedia del MsAP y las conclusiones obtenidas en dicha revisión se han tenido en cuenta para la actualización de dos documentos oficiales nacionales de planificación y conservación de especies objetivo: la estrategia nacional de lucha contra el uso ilegal de cebos envenenados y la estrategia de conservación del quebrantahuesos en España

- 6) *Has your country developed and formally endorsed a national strategy or action plan for the conservations of vultures?*

Croatia

The proposal of the Griffon Vulture Management Plan with Action Plan for the 10-year implementing period was developed and is in the final procedure of adoption.

France

Il convient à ce titre de noter la création d'un nouveau Plan National d'Action concernant le Gypaète Barbu

Italy

In 2009, Italy published a National Action Plan for the Egyptian vulture (https://www.mase.gov.it/portale/documents/d/guest/qcn_30_capovaccaio-pdf-1)

Morocco

Une stratégie nationale pour la conservation des rapaces, dont les vautours est en cours de finalisation et sera publiée dans le prochain avenir.

Pakistan

National Vulture Conservation Strategy and Action Plan: <https://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/National%20Vulture%20Conservation%20Strategy%20%26%20Action%20Plan.pdf>

Spain

No se ha aprobado una estrategia multiespecífica concreta para el conjunto de especies de buitres presentes en España, que son 5. No obstante, existen otros documentos oficiales de ámbito nacional que sí priorizan la conservación de estas especies y que siguen las prioridades del MsAP: estrategia de lucha contra el uso ilegal de cebos envenenados en España, las directrices para la gestión de la alimentación de especies necrófagas, la estrategia de conservación del quebrantahuesos en España y Portugal (esta sí es específica para una especie concreta). Además, hay un total de 16 planes regionales de conservación de las especies de buitres en España, que tiene rango legal y obligaciones de cumplimiento, en un total de 11 comunidades autónomas distintas: 6 para el alimoche, 5 para el quebrantahuesos, 4 para el buitre negro y 1 para el buitre leonado.

- 7) *Feel free to provide in the box below more info on the implementation of actions for the conservation of Vultures in your country:*

Belgium

Vultures are recorded in Belgium only rarely or in very small numbers of non-breeding individuals, so no specific conservation actions are considered. Vultures are however fully protected by law.

Croatia

For the data on number of Griffon vultures, data for the year 2024 was provided based on a complete national census of breeding pairs, ensuring high accuracy. While the total number of individuals is not systematically counted, the population includes a number of non-breeding birds in addition to breeding ones. The estimated total number of Griffon Vultures in Croatia—including both breeding and non-breeding individuals—is around 400 birds, though this figure is approximate and does not account for the annual recruitment of young birds.

Ethiopia

The Migratory Soaring Bird Project which was focused on raptors including the vultures and the EU Life Project which was mainly focused on the Egyptian Vulture in the country from 2015-2020 have contributed much through different activities to the conservation and improvement of the living habitats and in integrated actions

France

Mis en œuvre pour les 10 prochaines années, le second PNA ambitionne de permettre une augmentation de 20 % du nombre de couples territoriaux d'ici 2034, ainsi qu'une augmentation de la distribution sur les quatre massifs français. Pour atteindre ces objectifs à long terme, la stratégie suivante a été définie pour la période 2025-2034 :

Poursuivre le suivi pour connaître le développement de la population et ses paramètres démographiques selon les questionnements scientifiques identifiés, et adapter les mesures de conservation en conséquence.

Germany

<https://www.bfn.de/projektsteckbriefe/belassen-von-wildtierkadavern-der-landschaft-erprobung-am-beispiel-der> ;

<https://www.wildes-bayern.de/bartgeierzaehltag-ab-samstag/> ;

<https://www.lbv.de/naturschutz/arten-schuetzen/voegel/bartgeier/unsere-bartgeier-im-portraet/>

<https://www.bfn.de/projektsteckbriefe/belassen-von-wildtierkadavern-der-landschaft-erprobung-am-beispiel-der> [provision of wild ungulates carcasses for carrion eaters wildlife].

<https://www.lbv.de/naturschutz/arten-schuetzen/voegel/bartgeier/unsere-bartgeier-im-portraet/> [Bearded Vulture Reintroduction in German Alps (Bavaria)]

Italy

At the national level, no specific conservation policy targeting vultures has been formally adopted. Nevertheless, various initiatives have been, and continue to be, implemented at the regional level by multiple organizations (including universities, NGOs, national parks, nature reserves, ISPRA, and CUFAA) many of which supported by European Union funding through the LIFE programme. Several activities mentioned in question n°1 (specifically items b, c, d) have been integrated into LIFE-funded projects focused on the Griffon Vulture and the Egyptian Vulture (LIFE14 NAT/IT/001017 "Measures for the conservation of Bonelli's eagle, Egyptian vulture and Lanner falcon in Sicily", LIFE14 NAT/IT/000484 LIFE Under Griffon Wings - Implementation of best practices to rescue Griffon vultures in Sardinia, LIFE16 NAT/IT/000659 "Measures for the conservation of the Egyptian vulture in Italy and the Canary Islands", LIFE19 NAT/IT/000732 LIFE SAFE for VULTURES - First step to the restoration of the vulture guild in Sardinia).

Morocco

Plusieurs mesures en faveur des vautours ont été entreprises au niveau national , à savoir: 1) la mise en place du centre de réhabilitation des vautours à Jbel Moussa (CRV) au niveau de la région de Tanger. Il a permis le sauvetage et la réhabilitation de plusieurs spécimens de vautours avant d'être relâchés dans la nature ; 2) la mise en place d'un centre de soin des rapaces à Bi Lhmer dans la région de Rabat. ce centre a permis le soins et la réhabilitation de plusieurs spécimens de vautours récupérés dans différentes régions et qui ont été relâchés dans le milieu naturel; 3) la mise en place au niveau national de plusieurs placettes pour l'apport de la nourriture, notamment au niveau du CRV, permettant leur observation et la sensibilisation à leur rôle écologique; 4) le marquage et le suivi d'un certain nombre de spécimens de vautours, dont le vautour de Rüppell ainsi que la réalisation d'une étude approfondie sur le vautour percnoptère, notamment le recensement des sites de nidification; 5) le classement de tous les vautours sur la liste des espèces protégées par la législation nationale; 6) élaboration d'un programme de sensibilisation au profit des écoles riveraines de

Jbel Moussa, qui se trouve sur un couloir de migration des vautours. Ces mesures ont permis, entre autres, le retour et la nidification du vautour fauve dans le milieu naturel à Jbel Moussa au nord du royaume, après 40 ans d'absence.

Pakistan

i. Changa Manga Vulture Conservation Centre (Established in 2005) is working on maintaining a viable population of Oriental White-backed Vultures (OWBVs) for release in the wild; ii. Establishment of Vulture Safe Zone (free from NSAIDs) in Nagar Parkar, Sindh Province (2012) and Azad Jammu & Kashmir (Proposed); iii. Monitoring populations of vultures; iv. Monitoring NSAIDs in veterinary markets and enhance the availability and usage of the alternate safe NSAIDs, e.g. Meloxicam; v. Establishment of Vulture Restaurant; vi. Provision of incentives to communities for vulture nest protection; vii. Promotion of sustainable livestock management practices to reduced use of NSAIDs; viii. Increased awareness, through media, awareness sessions, and trainings among veterinarians, farmers and communities.

Togo

Des sensibilisations sont périodiquement menées par les Agents Forestiers des services déconcentrés du Ministère de l'Environnement et des Ressources Forestières à l'endroit du public sur le rôle des vautours dans les écosystèmes et l'importance de leur conservation pour l'écologie et le bien-être humain. Ces sensibilisations portent également sur la législation en vigueur au Togo sur la conservation des espèces de la faune sauvage.

8) *Please indicate any particular challenges faced your the country in implementing the relevant COP decisions, including, e.g., data and information, funding, capacity, etc.*

Belgium

Not relevant as vultures are very rare vagrants in Belgium.

Croatia

Croatia faces several challenges in implementing CMS and Vulture MsAP-related COP decisions, including: i) limited financial resources - funding for long-term monitoring, feeding stations, and mitigation of infrastructure-related threats (e.g. electrocution, wind farms) is often project-based; ii) insufficient resources - conservation work in the field, implementation of the concrete measures is concentrated in a few institutions and NGOs (PI ""Priroda"" which is certified recovery center for Griffon vultres and NGO BIOM), with limited staff for fieldwork, iii) data and information gaps - although monitoring of Griffon Vultures is established and regulary implemented via PI ""Priroda"", there are still gaps in causes of mortality data and effectiveness of mitigation measures, iv) cross-border cooperation and data sharing - migratory vultures (mostly young vultures) from Croatia face threats in other neighbouring countries (e.g. poisoning), yet regional coordination and response mechanisms need improvement.

Despite these challenges, there are initiatives on the field that continue to address these gaps through participation in international projects (e.g. LIFE SUPport, BalkanDetox LIFE, SWIPE), and participation in the MIKT.

Ethiopia

Because of the government priority for other development projects such as road, health facilities and schools the fund allocated to conservation and for the implementation of other COP- related decisions is very small and and mostly non-available.

Morocco

Bien que le Maroc, qui se trouve sur un couloir de migration des vautours, déploies des efforts considérables pour la conservation des rapaces, dont les vautours, la mise en œuvre d'actions pour la conservation nécessite la mobilisation davantage de moyens matériels et ressources

financiers. La coopération internationale dans ce domaine notamment pour la mobilisation de financement est très sollicitée. La coopération internationale est, dans ce cadre, fortement sollicitée, notamment pour le soutien technique, le renforcement des capacités des acteurs nationaux (gestionnaires, vétérinaires, chercheurs), et la mobilisation de financements. Le cas peu probable de l'empoisonnement indirecte illustre parfaitement la nécessité en matière de renforcement des capacités en méthodes d'investigations et de détection ainsi qu'une formation ciblant les intervenants de terrain. Il est également à souligner l'accès limité au financement dédié à la conservation des espèces; il devient de plus en plus difficile d'obtenir des financements spécifiquement orientés vers la gestion et la protection des espèces menacées. Les bailleurs exigent souvent que les projets intègrent des dimensions plus larges, telles que le changement climatique ou la composante sociale, ce qui complique le développement de projets centrés uniquement sur la conservation d'une espèce.

Spain

El principal reto es la mejora de la normativa a nivel nacional y, sobre todo, de la Unión Europea para: prohibir y sustituir el uso de plomo en la munición usada para la caza deportiva, debido a los niveles de intoxicación que causa en las poblaciones de buitres, y la necesidad de reducir y sustituir el uso creciente y generalizado de rodenticidas anticoagulantes de segunda generación (AVK) por el efecto tan negativo que está provocando al conjunto de aves rapaces.

Togo

Les compétences scientifiques sont disponibles mais notre pays manque de moyens financiers pour conduire des missions de collecte de données sur le terrain

Questions directed to West African Parties and Range States (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo)

9) *Does your national law protect vultures – in particular, all vulture species listed in CMS Appendix I?*

Togo

La loi N°2008_009 du 19 juin 2008 portant Code Forestier du Togo comporte des dispositions relatives à la conservation des espèces de la faune sauvage y compris les vautours

10) *Are police / wildlife enforcement officers sufficiently trained and equipped to address illegal taking of vultures?*

Togo

Les Agents forestiers du Togo reçoivent des formations d'aptitude militaire et technique et sont dotés d'un équipement acceptable

11) *Is there anything that could be done to improve the administering of penalties in case of illegal taking of vultures?*

Togo

Le Togo doit élaborer son plan d'action et une loi spécifique pour la conservation des vautours

12) *Is there anything that could be done to further deter illegal taking of vultures?*

Ethiopia

Illegal Killing of Vultures in the country is not actually problem.

13) *Has your country worked with relevant experts and organizations and stakeholders for identifying and implementing demand reduction strategies for vultures and their parts and derivatives including for belief-based use and consumption and, where appropriate, expanded the implementation of strategies that have been successful?*

No answers received to this question

14) *Has your country work with relevant organizations to initiate wide-scale public awareness campaigns at regional, national and local levels about the impacts of belief-based use of body parts of vultures, including the importance of these species to ecology and human health, and existing national and international legislation that protects vultures?*

Ethiopia

Yes

15) *Has the scale of vulture internal trade in your country being documented and assessed through, for example, surveying markets and identifying national trade routes?*

Togo

Les recherches dans le cadre de mes travaux de mémoire de Master en 2023 m'ont permit de retrouver des cadavres séchés de vautours en ventes dans les marchés aux fétiches pour des usages mystiques ou magico-spirituels et médicinaux. Les itinéraires commerciaux ont été également identifiés.

16) *The links between poisoning and trade in vultures has been clarified and mapped?*

Togo

Les enquêtes auprès des chasseurs et auprès des commerçants dans les marchés aux fétiches révèlent des cas d'empoisonnement

17) *Has any data on vulture poisoning being shared through the African Wildlife Poisoning Database [www.africanwildlifepoisoning.org]?*

No answers received

18) *Is updated data on the size and trend of the populations of vultures in your country available? If yes please provide them in the table below:*

Only Croatia and Ethiopia provided data