

## ADDENDUM 1

## SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL COMMENTS

(arising from ScC-SC8)

## INTERNATIONALLY IMPORTANT RAPTOR AREAS

UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.26.8

## RECOMMENDATIONS TO COP15

The Scientific Council recommends to adopt the draft resolution and decisions with amendments as specified below.

## GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE DOCUMENT

The Sessional Committee noted this document and highlighted the need to increase protection to raptors at global level, and mentioned that the American, Asia-Pacific and any other world's regions could also benefit from such analysis under the CMS. The Committee highlighted the need to consider previous data available and existing networks that can help drafting these proposals. It therefore expressed their interest in adapting current language to ensure a global remit, and coordination with other CMS instruments, such as the Flyways Working Group, is ensured.

## COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC SECTIONS/ INCLUDING POSSIBLE PROPOSALS FOR TEXT REVISION

The following amendments are proposed in preambular paragraph 1 of the draft Resolution (page 5 of the document):

*Alarmed* that migratory birds of prey ~~in Africa and Eurasia~~ are facing a biodiversity crisis, for example with an estimated 34 per cent of African Eurasian species threatened with extinction and 50 per cent in decline,

The following amendments are proposed in preambular paragraph 5 of the draft Resolution (page 5 of the document):

*Recalling* CMS Resolution 12.13 *Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs)* and CMS Resolution 14.7 *Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRAs)* which, among other things, acknowledge the IUCN criteria and identification processes for CMS-listed marine mammals, sharks, rays and chimaeras, and request Parties and invite Range States, intergovernmental organizations and partners to identify specific areas globally where the delineation of IMMAs and ISRAs could be particularly beneficial,

The following amendments are proposed under operative paragraph 1 of the draft Resolution at the end of page 5 of the document:

1. *Decides* to establish IIRAs (Internationally Important Raptor Areas) as areas internationally important for migratory birds of prey ~~in Africa and Eurasia~~ for those sites meeting criteria used to identify Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas as recognized by the Technical Advisory Group of the Raptors MOU, including the sites already listed in Table 3 of Annex 3 of the Raptors MOU;

The following amendments are proposed under operative paragraph 3 of the draft Resolution:

3. *Acknowledges* that the criteria used by the Technical Advisory Group of the Raptors MOU to

identify IIRAs within the geographic scope of the Raptors MOU are based on the globally standardized scientific criteria developed for identifying Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) as described by BirdLife International<sup>1</sup>, and that the IIRAs include IBAs and Special Protection Areas (as designated by the European Commission's Bird Directive) that host one or more raptor species listed in Annex 1 of the Raptors MOU, as well as sites proposed by Signatories to the MOU that meet the IBA criteria;

The following amendments are proposed in operative paragraph 4 of the draft Resolution:

4. *Recommends* that, in the spirit of transparency, the such support to identify IIRAs engages the authorities of Parties and relevant regional and international organizations at an early stage;

The following amendments are proposed in operative paragraph 5 of the draft Resolution:

5. *Invites* Parties, Range States, intergovernmental organizations and partners to request the support of the Technical Advisory Group of the Raptors MOU to advance the identification and assessment of IIRAs within the geographic area of the Raptors MOU and support other flyways, via the CMS Flyways Working Group;

The following paragraph is proposed for addition as operative paragraph under paragraph 6 of the draft Resolution:

6. bis Further invites Parties, and non-party Range States, via the CMS Flyways Working Group, to consider applying the IIRA approach for identification of internationally important sites for migratory raptors at a global level;

The following amendments are proposed in operative paragraph 7 of the draft Resolution:

7. *Encourages* Parties and non-Parties to make use of the areas already listed in Table 3 of Annex 3 of the Raptors MOU when designating protected areas or areas subject to other effective area-based conservation/restoration measures, or more generally for spatial planning processes, to support the conservation of CMS-listed birds of prey and to implement Targets 1 and 3 of the Global Biodiversity Framework, including through National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, and;

The following amendments are proposed in paragraph 8 of the draft Resolution:

8. *Requests* the Secretariat to ~~continue to~~ promote the value of IIRAs for the conservation of CMS-listed birds of prey at global level.

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<sup>1</sup> BirdLife International (2025) BirdLife Datazone. Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs). <https://datazone.birdlife.org/about-our-science/ibas>. Downloaded 18 December 2025.

The following amendments and additions are proposed in draft Decision 15.AA (page 7 of the document):

15.AA

- a) Parties within the geographic scope of the Raptors MOU are requested to support the identification of new IIRAs by proposing new areas to the Technical Advisory Group of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors MOU).
- b) Parties beyond the geographic scope of the Raptors MOU are requested to support the identification of IIRAs with the support of the Flyways Working Group.

The following amendments and additions are proposed in draft Decision 15.BB (page 7 of the document):

15.BB Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to:

- a) actively contribute to the identification of proposed IIRAs ~~in Africa and Eurasia~~ within the geographic scope of the Raptors MOU and submit proposals to the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) of the Raptors MOU;
- b) actively engage with and provide support to the TAG for the process of identifying IIRAs
- c) support, beyond the Raptors MOU geographic scope, the identification of IIRAs, and to assess the IIRA proposals and list the resulting sites, facilitated by the Flyways Working Group.

The following amendments are proposed in draft Decision 15.CC (page 7 of the document):

15.CC

The Scientific Council is requested to support the TAG in identifying IIRAs for CMS-listed raptor species ~~in Africa and Eurasia~~ within the geographic scope of the Raptors MOU, through sharing information and data, and support the Flyways Working Group, in the facilitation of equivalent processes for identifying IIRAs and listing the resulting sites for other flyways,

The following amendments and additions are proposed in draft Decision 15.DD (page 7 of the document):

15.DD The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of resources:

- a) support the Flyways Working Group to facilitate mechanisms for identifying, assessing and listing IIRAs in flyways beyond the geographical scope of the Raptors MOU;
- b) inform the Parties of newly identified IIRAs;
- c) ~~promote~~ facilitate consultation and coordination between the TAG in the African-Eurasian Flyway, equivalent processes in other flyways, Parties, Range States, and relevant international and regional organizations with a view to establishing a mutually supported, science- and ecosystem-based approach to conservation and sustainability of IIRAs;
- d) report to the Conference of the Parties at its 16<sup>th</sup> meeting on the implementation of this Decision.