



**CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
SPECIES**

UNEP/CMS/Resolution 15.10

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INTERNATIONALLY IMPORTANT RAPTOR AREAS (IIRAs)

Adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its 15th Meeting (Campo Grande, March 2026)

Alarmed that migratory birds of prey 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,

Conscious that area-based conservation is essential to safeguard declining biodiversity, and concerned that migratory birds of prey are overlooked by many national and international efforts to develop and apply area-based conservation and management measures such as the creation of protected areas with management plans, or as areas subject to other effective area-based conservation/restoration measures,

Welcoming Targets 1 and 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,

Recalling the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors MOU), which calls on Range States in Art. 8(d) to “identify important areas, significant routes, breeding and congregatory sites for birds of prey and promote their protection and/or appropriate management, rehabilitation and/or restoration”,

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,

Welcoming the development of robust selection and review criteria for the identification of IIRAs by the Technical Advisory Group of the Raptors MOU and progress made in identifying IIRAs that will contribute to determining Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs),

*The Conference of the Parties to the
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals*

1. *Decides* to establish IIRAs (Internationally Important Raptor Areas) as areas internationally important for migratory birds of prey 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;

2. *Requests* Parties and invites all Range States, intergovernmental organizations and partners to support the identification and delineation of IIRAs, in particular for species listed in category 1 in Table 1 of the Raptors MOU Action Plan, including Egyptian vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*), lappet-faced vulture (*Torgos tracheliotos*), Rüppell's vulture (*Gyps rueppelli*) and steppe eagle (*Aquila nipalensis*);
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, and that the IIRAs include, inter alia, IBAs and Special Protection Areas (as designated by the European Union's Birds 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;
4. *Recommends* that, in the spirit of transparency, the support to identify IIRAs engages the authorities of Parties and relevant regional and international organizations at an early stage;
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 to establish similar processes;
6. *Also invites* the Convention on Biological Diversity, other relevant multilateral environmental agreements and international financial institutions to consider IIRAs as useful contributions to the determination of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) and other areas subject to other effective area-based conservation/restoration measures;
7. *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;
8. *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;
9. *Requests* the Secretariat to promote the value of IIRAs for the conservation of CMS-listed birds of prey at the global level.