# Site Network Analysis

## 25th August 2026

**Technical Advisory Group**

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# Background

- **MOS3 (2023)**: concluded that the pilot site network analysis identified important gaps in the existing Site Network (Annex 3, Table 3) and recommended to extend the analysis to all Raptors MOU species, subject to available resources.
- **MOS3 TAG Workplan (Task 13)**: identify information gaps on key breeding areas, stopovers, refuelling, bottleneck, and other congregational and non-breeding sites along raptor flyways.
- **TAG9**: due to funding constraints, agreed on a modular approach, initially extending the original pilot analysis approach (from MOS3) to Category 1 species listed in Table 1 of Annex 3.

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**1.2 Species selection**

Covers all 31 Category 1 species listed in Table 1 of Annex 3 of the Raptors MOU.

**1.3 Aims of the report**

Identify genuine gaps in the current Site Network, assess where site-based conservation is most relevant, and highlight priority areas for strengthening the network.

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## 2. Methods

### 2.1 Coverage of sites at the species-level

Assess whether the current Annex 3, Table 3 Site Network captures internationally important areas across each Category 1 species' annual cycle (focusing initially on meeting criteria of international importance at global level (IBA Criteria A1 and A4).

#### 2.1.1 Rapid literature review of congregatory behaviour for Category 1 species

Establish when species congregate and in what numbers, helping distinguish genuine site-network gaps from stages where internationally important concentrations are unlikely.

#### 2.1.2 Overlaying MOU sites and species ranges for Category 1 species

Compare Annex 3, Table 3 sites with BirdLife ranges to identify where breeding, non-breeding, passage and resident ranges are covered or lack sites.

#### 2.1.3 Overlaying Table 3 sites and eBird species abundance maps for Category 1 species

Identify high-abundance areas outside the existing Site Network where new site identification or survey effort could be prioritised.

#### 2.1.4 Rapid literature review of internationally important sites for Category 1 species

Identify sites reported since 2015 to support internationally important numbers and that may be missing from Annex 3, Table 3.

#### 2.1.5 Potential sites of international importance for a sub-set of Category 1 species based on eBird count data

Use eBird counts above thresholds of international importance (global level) to identify existing IBA/KBAs suitable for consideration for these species and additional locations needing further assessment or monitoring.

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## 3. Results

### 3.1 Coverage of sites at the species-level

Assesses where the current Annex 3, Table 3 Site Network provides sufficient coverage for Category 1 species and where important gaps remain across the annual cycle.

#### 3.1.1 Rapid literature review of congregatory behaviour

18 species are congregatory during at least one stage of the annual cycle, 8 are rarely congregatory, and 5 are not typically congregatory. This helps distinguish genuine site-network gaps from stages where species are unlikely to form internationally important concentrations.

#### 3.1.2 Overview by species (incorporating methodology described in 2.1.2 – 2.1.5)

Identifies where site coverage is sufficient, where gaps remain, and potential sites that could help fill these gaps, supported by species-specific maps, abundance data, literature and eBird records.

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**4. Discussion**

- Site-network gaps vary across regions and stages of the annual cycle.
- Species uplistings on the IUCN Red List often lower thresholds considered internationally important meaning more sites may qualify
- Some Category 1 spp have already been identified as meeting thresholds of international importance at sites, but this has not yet been recognised Table 3 (eg/ IBAs/ KBAs identified/ updated since 2015).
- Further surveys and monitoring are needed, especially in poorly surveyed regions; citizen-science data can help but are geographically biased.
- Site designation alone is not enough - effective management, threat reduction and, for some species, landscape-scale conservation are also needed.
- Updating the Site Network is an ongoing process, with future work potentially covering Category 2 species, regional thresholds and population-level gaps.

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# TAG is asked to:

- Review the Site Network Analysis report and provide comments or suggested revisions.
- Flag any gaps or important sites that may have been overlooked for Category 1 species in the Site Network Analysis report.
- Suggest any additional relevant literature that identifies sites of potential international importance for Category 1 species that should be considered for inclusion in Table S3.

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