

Species rationale: TAG-proposed amendments for MOS4

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Technical Advisory Group

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Background

TAG tasks from the 2023-2026 workplan:

- **Action 1:** Ensure changes in taxonomy and/or conservation status and knowledge of movement of migratory raptors are reflected in the Raptors MOU lists with amendments to Annexes 1, 2 and 3 (Table 1 and Table 3) proposed to MOS.
- **Action 2:** Review proposals submitted to MOS for the inclusion of species in Annex 1 of the MOU' and provide 'Written comments on each proposal tabled by Signatories'. N/A
- **Action 8:** Monitor consistency between the IUCN Red List status, Table 1 Category, and CMS Appendix listing of species.
- **Action 9:** Clarify the criteria for inclusion of a species in Category 2 of Table 1 of the MOU's Action Plan.

Action 1: Changes to Annex 1 species list

Amendments to Annex 1 species list proposed on two main grounds:

1) Taxonomy/nomenclature

- Taxonomic updates follow end 2025 BirdLife checklist
- BirdLife International -working with other taxonomic authorities towards harmonised taxonomy nomenclature for birds – AviList

2) Migratory status: species shown to meet the CMS definition of a migratory species.

Action 1: Taxonomic/ nomenclature changes

- **Northern Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*)**
 - Common name updated to **Long-eared Owl**.
- **Scissor-tailed Kite (*Chelictinia riourii*)**
 - Family classification changed from **Accipitridae** to **Elanidae**.
 - Elanidae is now recognised as a separate family rather than a subfamily.
- **Eurasian (*Otus scops*) and Cyprus Scops-owl (*Otus cyprius*)**
 - As flagged at TAG4 Cyprus Scops-owl (*Otus cyprius*) was recognised as a species separate from the Eurasian Scops-owl (*Otus scops*) prior to MOS3, but no changes were needed to Annex 1 or Table 1 as the Cyprus Scops-owl is non-migratory while the Eurasian Scops-owl remains listed on Annex 1.

** Come back to this re: Table 3 the site list

Action 1: CMS definition of 'migratory'

- A reminder of the CMS definition of 'migratory':

CMS – 'the entire population or any geographically separate part of the population of any species or lower taxon of wild animals, a significant proportion of whose members cyclically and predictably cross one or more national jurisdictional boundaries'

- And the clarification of terms provided in CMS resolution 13.7:

- 'In the interpretation of the term "migratory species" in Article 1, paragraph 1 The word "cyclically" in the phrase "cyclically and predictably" relates to a cycle of any nature, such as astronomical (circadian, annual etc.), life or climatic, and of any frequency;

-The word "predictably" in the phrase "cyclically and predictably" implies that a phenomenon can be anticipated to recur in a given set of circumstances, though not necessarily regularly in time.'

Action 1: Migratory status of other candidate Annex 1 species

TAG assessed against the CMS definition of migratory species:

- **Bateleur (*Terathopius ecaudatus*)** -sufficient evidence for TAG to propose adding to Annex 1
- **Red-headed Falcon (*Falco chicquera*)** - current evidence insufficient to demonstrate that it meets the CMS migratory definition so not proposed for addition at this time
- **Bonelli's Eagle (*Aquila fasciata*)** –Israel made original proposal and new additional evidence from Ohad had been discussed at TAG9 in Spain and found sufficient. Rather than a new submission by Israel, will be added to TAG proposals.
- If Signatories agree with TAG proposals Annex 1 would increase from **94 to 96 spp.**

Action 1: Future species for TAG to review migratory status?

Secretary bird

Palm Nut Vulture

Black Sparrowhawk

Eurasian Eagle-owl??

White-eyed Buzzard

Western Banded Snake-eagle

Southern Banded Snake-eagle

Grey Kestrel

Greater Kestrel

Eurasian Pygmy Owl

Brahminy Kite

Lesser Fish Eagle

Black Eagle

Lizard Buzzard

Long-crested Eagle

Pale Chanting Goshawk

Dark Chanting Goshawk

Eastern Chanting-goshawk

Gabar Goshawk

African Scops-owl

African Harrier-hawk

Crested Serpent-eagle

Action 1: Annex 3 Table 1 Categorisation

- Annex 3 Table 1 of the MOU divides Annex 1 species into 3 categories depending on their global and regional conservation status:
 - **Category 1** Globally threatened and Near Threatened species as defined according to the latest IUCN Red List and listed as such in the BirdLife International World Bird Database
 - **Category 2** Species considered to have Unfavourable Conservation Status at a regional level within the Range States and territories listed in Annex 2 to the MOU
 - **Category 3**—all other migratory species

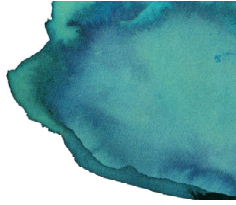
Action 1: Changes to Annex 3 Table 1

- **Bateleur** → **Category 1** (globally Endangered).
- **Bonelli's Eagle** → **Category 3** (globally Least Concern; stable population).
- **No other category changes** on basis of current approach, but will return to this
- If TAG proposals accepted $94 + 2 \text{ species} = 96 \text{ species}$ on Annex 1 split:
 - Category 1 - 32 species
 - Category 2 - 29 species
 - Category 3 - 35 species

Action 2: TAG to review species proposals submitted to MOS

- No new proposals to add species to Annex I submitted by Signatories by the MOS4 deadline

Action 8: Consistency between Red List status, Table 1 Category, and CMS Appendices



CMS Appendix I

- Generally covers Endangered/Critically Endangered) species (subset of Raptors MOU Table 1, Category 1)
- Generally consistent but Black Harrier is Endangered (and Raptors Table 1, Category 1) and the species is not currently listed on CMS Appendix I –but only 1 CMS Party
- Bateleur, (newly recognised by TAG as migratory) could qualify for CMS Appendix I and potentially be proposed at COP16

CMS Appendix II

- Covers species in **unfavourable conservation status**, including Vulnerable and Near Threatened species.
- Currently includes Osprey and family-level listings for Accipitridae, Elanidae and Falconidae.
- Snowy Owl was successfully added at COP15 by Norway, with TAG input



Action 9: Clarifying criteria for inclusion in Table 1, Category 2

- Current Category 2 regional assessment has thus far used European regional data, with limited equivalent information elsewhere.
- TAG identified concerns that knowledge gaps or an unrealistic evidence standard could result in declining species being missed.
- Proposed approach:
 - Use available regional data, expert knowledge and the precautionary principle
 - Assess species where evidence indicates potentially unfavourable regional conservation status
 - Where evidence is insufficient, identify species for further research and monitoring.
- TAG would develop guidance to ensure assessments for Category 2 are consistent, evidence-based, but cognicent of knowledge gaps and fair across regions
- Annex 3, Table 1 footnote would be updated (at MOS4?) to reflect this approach.

4 Species that are considered to have Unfavourable Conservation Status at a regional level within the area (defined in Annex 2) of the MOU. Effectively this comprises Annex 1 species which are Least Concern on the Global IUCN Red List, but are either:

- a) Listed as threatened or Near Threatened on the European Red List of Birds (2021); or,
- b) On the basis of BirdLife International data 2021, would meet criteria to be considered as Species of European Conservation Concern -SPEC1, SPEC2 or SPEC 3 (as in BirdLife International (2004) Birds in Europe: population estimates, trends and conservation status. Cambridge, UK: BirdLife International Conservation Series No.12); or
- c) Have a declining global population trend according to the Birdlife International database 2022.'

4 Species that are considered to have Unfavourable Conservation Status at a regional level within the area (defined in Annex 2) of the MOU. Effectively this comprises Annex 1 species which are Least Concern on the Global IUCN Red List, but where any of the below apply:

- a) The species is listed as threatened or Near Threatened in a regional scale assessment or meets criteria to be considered a species of regional level concern (including SPEC listing in Europe or equivalent in other regions)
- b) In the absence of regional scale assessments, collated information on the species conservation status and population trends from different parts of the region is assessed by Technical Advisory Group experts to be representative of unfavourable conservation status in the region as a whole
- c) The species has a declining global population trend according to the most recent data of the IUCN Red List authority.'

Current Table 1 footnote

Amended Table 1 footnote

Related to these species-related actions in the TAG workplan TAG is asked to:

Review the species rationale document, consider and endorse:

- The proposed changes to Annex 1 and Table 1 reflecting changes in taxonomy/ nomenclature and knowledge of migratory status
- The assessment of consistency between CMS Appendices, Raptors MOU Annex 1 and Table 1 and the IUCN Red List
- The summary of TAG discussion on Category 2 of Table 1, checking it is a fair reflection of the discussion at TAG9, summarises the key issues and reflects a more balanced way forward and that you agree the next TAG workplan should include development of guidance
- The proposed amendment to Table 1 footnote
- The proposal for a stand-alone species focused document to MOS4