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# Raptors MOU and IKB



## The Raptors MOU: A Global Mandate

- A legally non-binding agreement under Article IV.4 of the Bonn Convention (CMS), effective since 1 November 2008 and last amended by MOS3 in July 2023.
- Aims to achieve and maintain the favourable conservation status of migratory birds of prey across Africa and Eurasia, and to reverse their decline.
- 66 Signatories
- 94 Species covered
- 7000 Internationally Important Raptors Areas





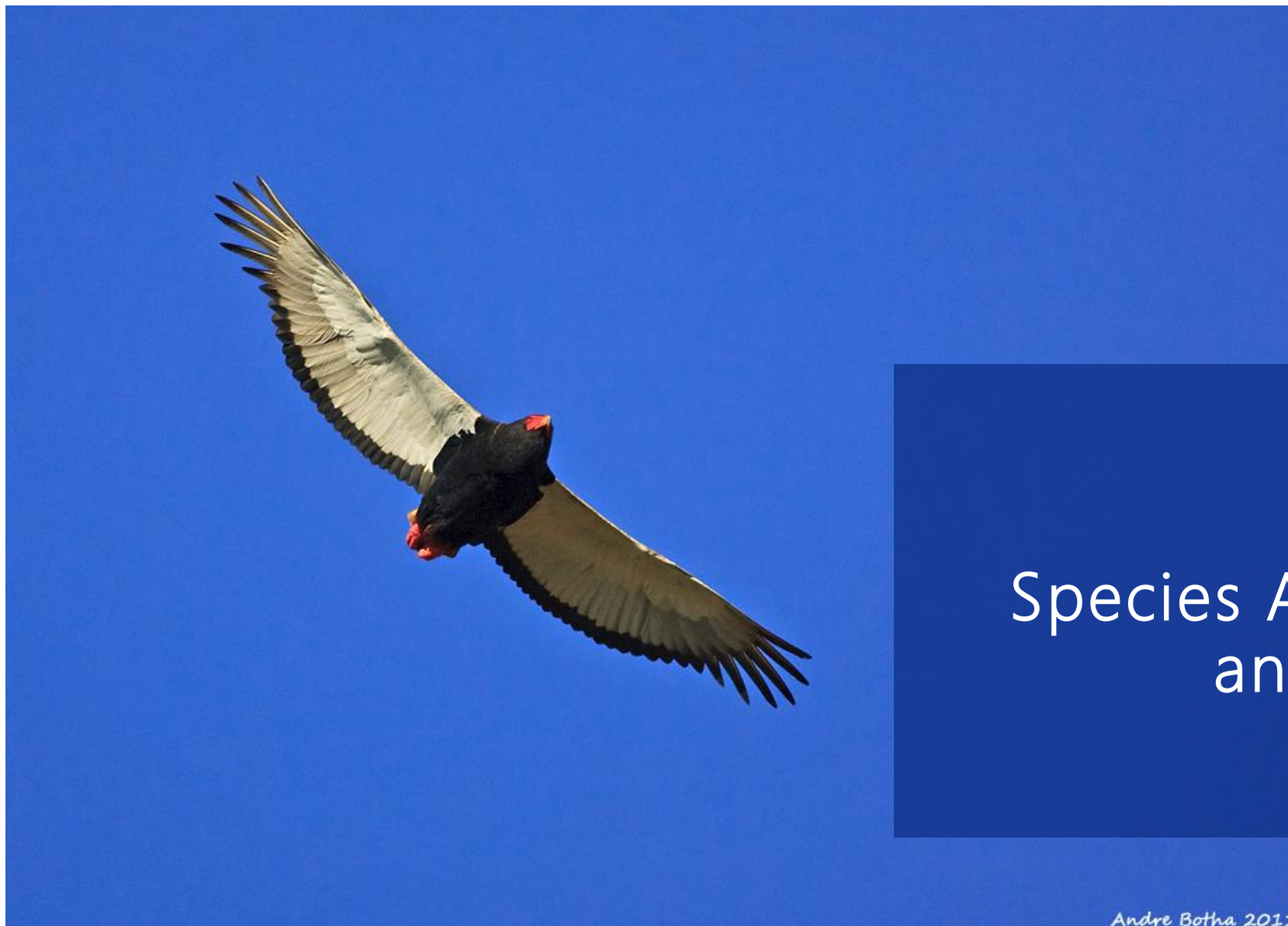
## What Signatories Commit To

- Adopt, implement and enforce legal, regulatory and administrative measures to conserve birds of prey and their habitats.
- Provide and enforce legal protection against unsustainable killing, taking, trade or other exploitation.
- Identify important sites, flyways and breeding or congregatory areas, and promote their protection.
- Assess threats from human activities and integrate raptor conservation into agriculture, energy, transport and other sectoral policies.
- Cooperate internationally on research, monitoring, capacity-building and emergency response.



## IKB: A Threat Named in the Mandate Itself

- The MOU's Preamble names unlawful killing — especially poisoning — and unsustainable taking among the key drivers of unfavourable conservation status.
- Signatories commit to legal protection against “unsustainable killing, taking, trade or other forms of exploitation” (MOU paragraph 8b).



# Species Action Plans and IKB

Andre Botha 2011



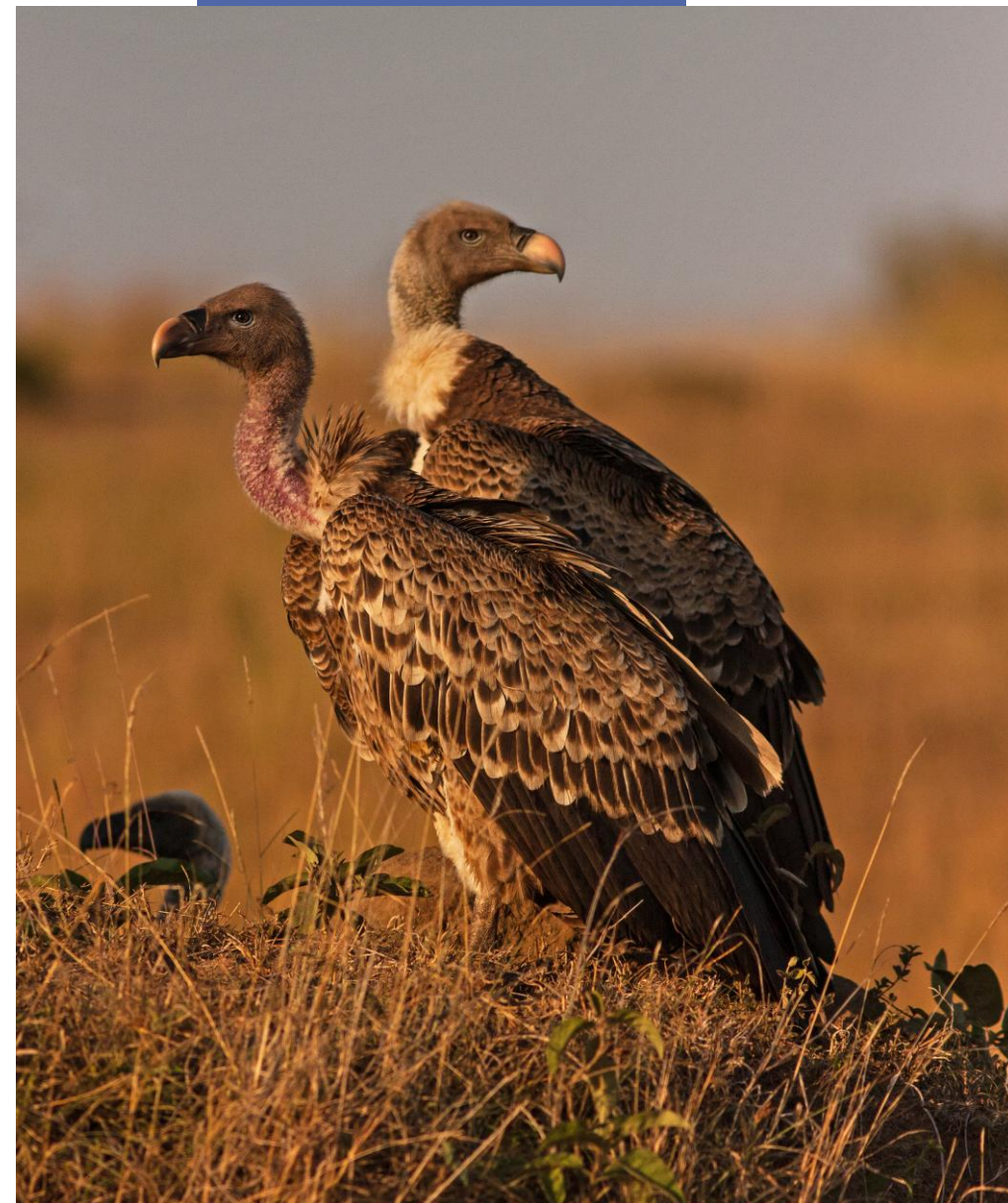
# SakerGAP

- Global Action Plan (SakerGAP) adopted by CMS COP11 (2014); IUCN status: Endangered.
- **Objective 2:** ensure that trapping and other forms of take are controlled and sustainable, converting illegal use into legal, sustainable use.
- North Africa confirmed as a trapping and transit corridor: satellite-tagged Sakers lost contact in Libya, and local falconers confirm regular trapping for Gulf markets.
- Recommended actions:
  - Strengthen legislation and law enforcement (2.1–2.2),
  - Individual marking / SakerID registration (2.4),
  - Awareness-raising with trappers and falconers (2.5, 5.8).



# Vulture MsAP

- Adopted by CMS COP12 (2017, Resolution 12.10); covers all 15 migratory Old World vulture species through 12 objectives and a Framework of Actions.
- **Objective 10:** substantially reduce direct persecution and disturbance;
- **Objective 4:** reduce and eventually halt trade in vulture parts for belief-based use.
- North African breeding raptors, including the Egyptian Vulture, face illegal killing, illegal trade and poisoning as leading threats (Garrido et al., 2021).



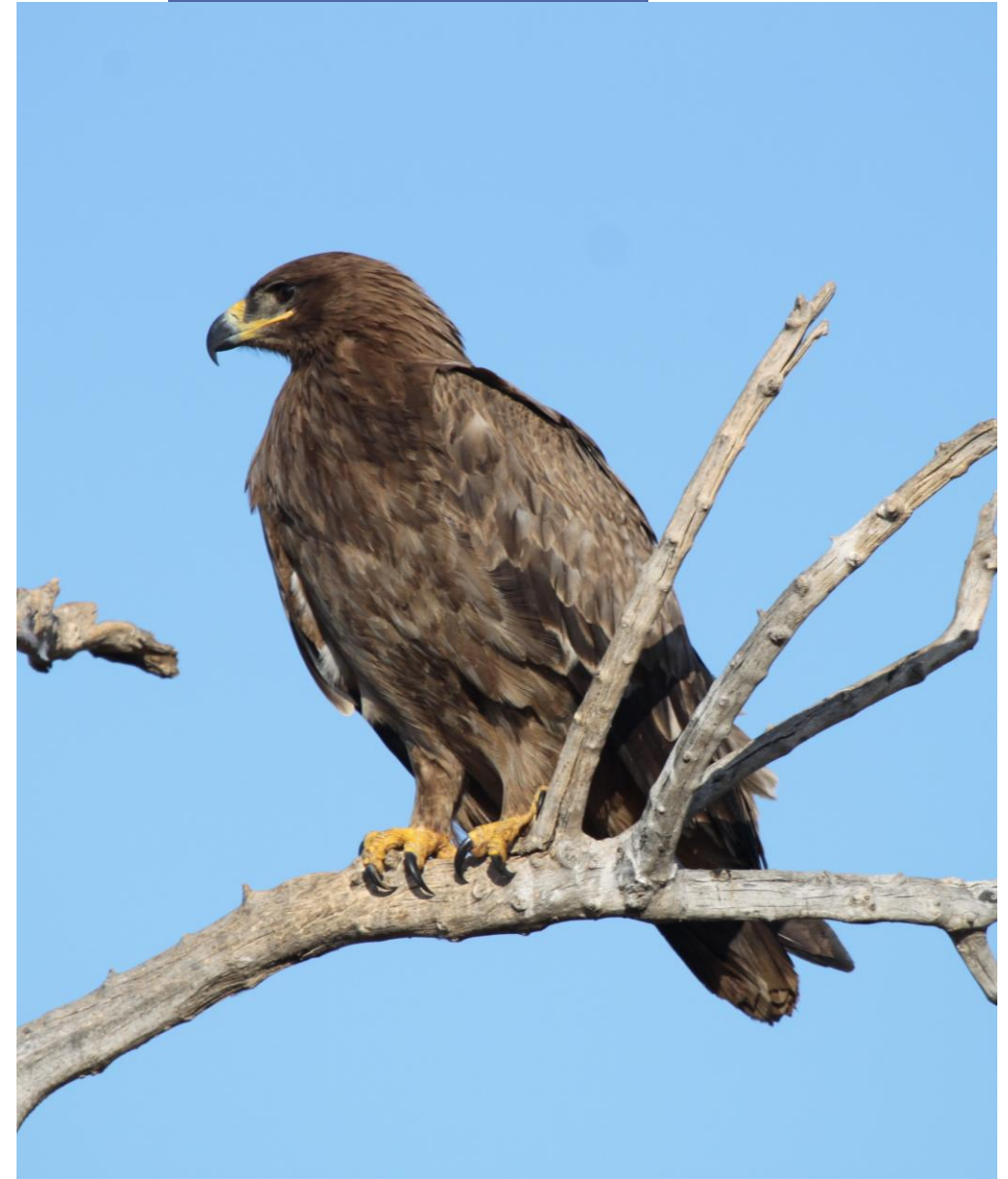
# Sooty Falcon ISSAP 2024–2036

- IUCN status: Vulnerable and declining; the ISSAP was adopted by the CMS Standing Committee in March 2025.
- Breeds on desert coasts and islands of North Africa and West Asia, including Egypt and Libya.
- **Hunting and taking is identified as a threat of medium importance** across multiple Range States, alongside disturbance, habitat loss and poisoning.
- Recommended actions:
  - **protect and monitor breeding colonies,** c
  - lose data gaps on migration and wintering threats,
  - engage Range States — including Egypt and Libya — in coordinated action.

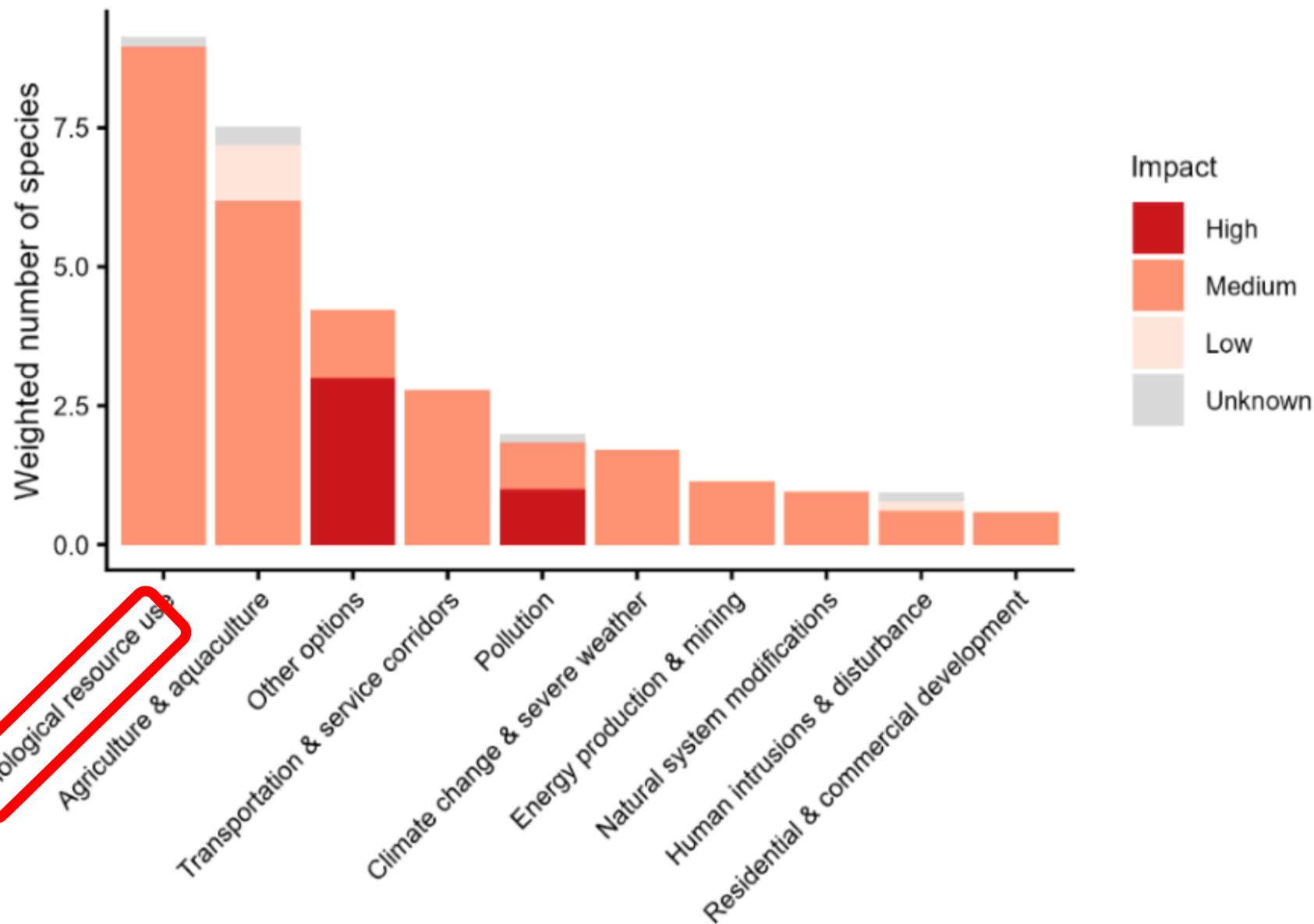


# Steppe Eagle Global Action Plan 2026–2035

- Adopted by CMS COP15 (March 2026); population down by around 50% over three generations; IUCN status: Endangered.
- Goal 2 of the Plan: **reduce significantly mortality due to the impact of legal and illegal take and trade.**
- Illegal killing, trapping and trade — including online markets — persist across the range, particularly in the Middle East, North Africa and Southeast Asia.
- 49 priority actions target law enforcement, monitoring and community engagement along the flyway, including in North African wintering and transit range.

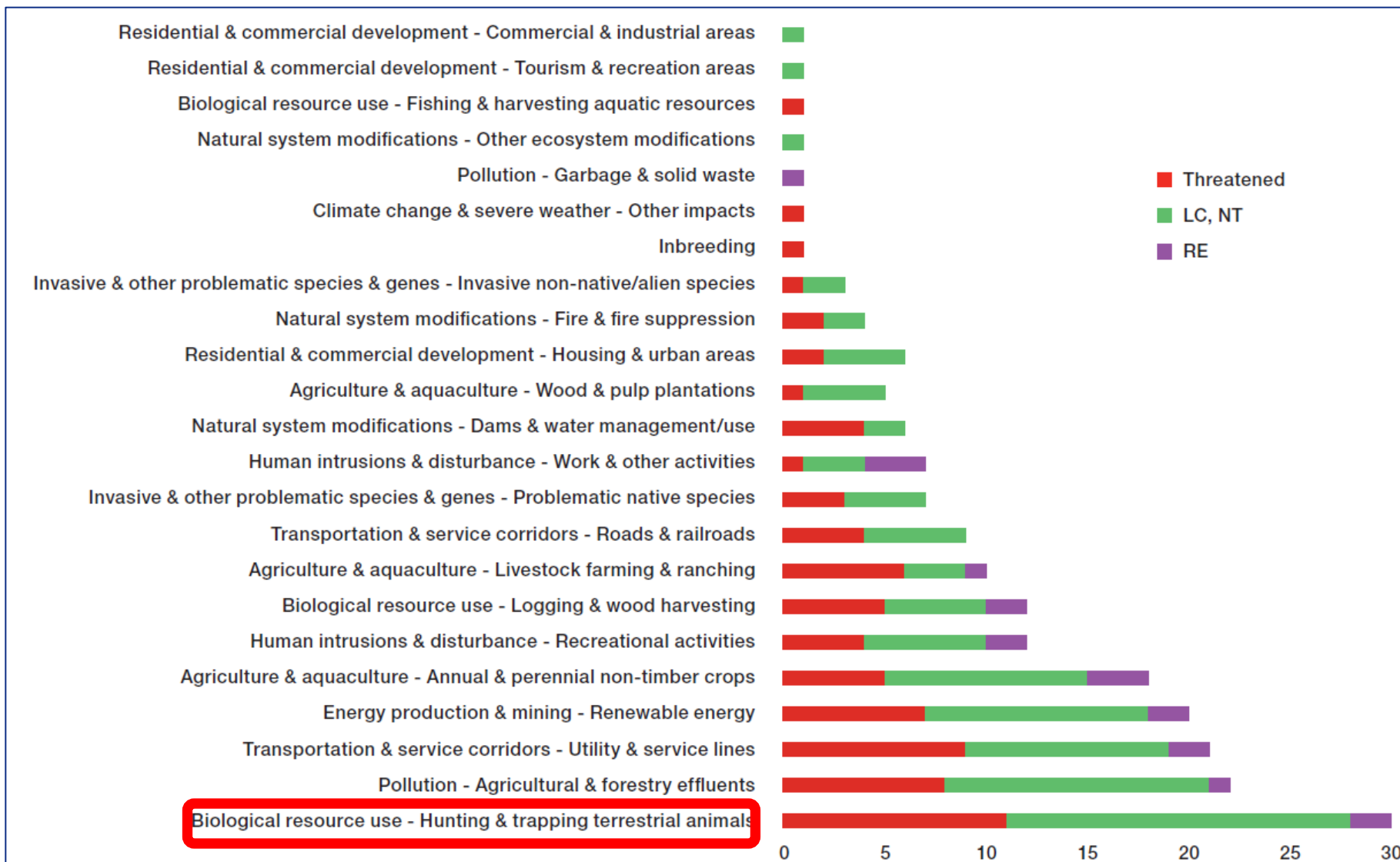


## Threat Level 1: Table 1 Category 1 species



Raptors MOU Second  
Conservation Status  
Assessment Report 2026  
(Coming soon!)





Garrido, J.R., et al 2021.  
*The conservation status  
 and distribution of the  
 breeding birds of prey of  
 North Africa.*



# Common Ground: Recommended Actions

Across SakerGAP, the Vulture MsAP, the Sooty Falcon ISSAP and the Steppe Eagle GAP, three families of action recur — all directly relevant to North Africa:

## Legislation & Enforcement

- Strengthen and harmonise national legal protection against killing, taking and trade
- Improve law enforcement, investigation and judicial follow-up on wildlife crime
- Regulate and monitor legal falconry/trapping where it persists

## Monitoring & Data

- Individual marking and registration schemes (e.g. SakerID)
- Track trapping, trade and mortality via satellite tagging and national reporting
- Close knowledge gaps on migration, wintering and trapping hotspots

## Engagement & Capacity

- Work directly with trappers, falconers and local communities
- Build enforcement and forensic capacity (e.g. Wildlife Crime Academy)
- Align National IKB Action Plans with Species Action Plan priorities



## Looking Ahead: MOS4

- Fourth Meeting of Signatories to the Raptors MOU (MOS4): 30 November – 2 December 2026, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.
- Brings together the MOU's 66 Signatories and 5 Cooperating Partners, plus observers from intergovernmental organizations, NGOs and the private sector.
- Will review the Vulture MsAP Mid-term Implementation Review and progress on the Saker Falcon, Sooty Falcon and Steppe Eagle Action Plans.
- An opportunity to carry North Africa's IKB priorities — and this workshop's outcomes — into the global Raptors MOU agenda.





THANK YOU!

