

FOURTH MEETING OF SIGNATORIES TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY BIRDS OF PREY IN AFRICA AND EURASIA

(Victoria Falls, 30 November- 2 December 2026)

UNEP/CMS/RAPTORS/MOS4/Doc.12.4

SECOND CONSERVATION STATUS ASSESSMENT REPORT

(Prepared by the Coordinating Unit)

Summary: This document presents the Second Conservation Status Assessment Report of the migratory birds of prey listed on Annex 1 of the Raptors MOU.

The Meeting is invited to endorse the Report and to request the Technical Advisory Group, subject to the availability of resources, to produce an updated Report in time for the next Meeting of Signatories.

Background

1. Paragraph 5 of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors MOU) provides that Signatories will aim to take coordinated measures to achieve and maintain the favourable conservation status of birds of prey throughout their range and to reverse their decline when and where appropriate. The Conservation Status Assessment Report (CSAR) provides the Meeting of Signatories (MOS) with an up-to-date overview of whether this aim is being achieved for the migratory raptor species listed on Annex 1 to the MOU.
2. At its Third Meeting (MOS3, Dubai, 3–6 July 2023), the Meeting of Signatories endorsed the first Conservation Status Assessment Report contained in Annex 1 to document [UNEP/CMS/Raptors/MOS3/Doc.12.3](#) and requested the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to produce an updated version of that report for submission to MOS4.¹
3. The Workplan of the TAG for the period 2023–2026² accordingly includes Activity 21 “Monitor the conservation status of migratory raptors listed in Annex 1”, with the production of a Conservation Status Assessment Report at each Meeting of Signatories as its expected output. Under Activity 16 of the Workplan, information on mortality obtained through new technologies, including satellite tracking, is also to be included periodically in the Report.

Preparation of the Second Conservation Status Assessment Report

4. The Second Conservation Status Assessment Report (CSAR2) presented in Annex 1 to this document, was prepared by BirdLife International. Its contents and progress were discussed by the TAG, including at its Eleventh Meeting (online, 25 August 2026)³.
5. CSAR2 covers all 94 species listed on Annex 1 and focuses on what has changed since the first Report. It draws principally on the 2025 IUCN Red List datasets maintained by BirdLife International in its capacity as IUCN Red List Authority for birds, complemented by regional Red List assessments for Europe, the Mediterranean and South Africa, Lesotho and Eswatini, and by scientific literature published since MOS3. The Report addresses global and regional conservation status, trends in status as measured by the Red List Index, global and regional population trends, changes in the Categories assigned in Table 1 of Annex 3, established and emerging threats, internationally important sites listed in Table 3 of Annex 3 (List of Sites), habitats, conservation actions, knowledge gaps and gaps in international species action plans.
6. In line with the request of MOS3, CSAR2 also includes information on the sites listed in Table 3 of Annex 3, including the extension of the site network gap analysis to all Category 1 species⁴ and an analysis of the protected area coverage of the List of Sites. The Report should further be read together with the documents on the interpretation of “regional level” for Category 2 [UNEP/CMS/RAPTORS/MOS4/Doc.14.1](#) and on proposed approach to amending the List of Sites [UNEP/CMS/RAPTORS/MOS4/Doc.14.4](#).

Main findings

7. CSAR2 shows that urgent conservation action remains necessary to improve the conservation status and population trajectories of Annex 1 species. In particular:

¹Summary List of Key Outcomes of MOS3, Outcome 17 ([UNEP/CMS/RAPTORS/MOS3/Report/Annex XIII](#)).

²[UNEP/CMS/RAPTORS/MOS3/Doc.15.3/Rev.1](#).

³[UNEP/CMS/RAPTORS/TAG11/Doc.1/Rev.1](#), agenda item 5.1.

⁴Presented in further detail in document [UNEP/CMS/RAPTORS/MOS4/Doc.12.3](#).

- a) one third (34 per cent) of Annex 1 species remain globally threatened or Near Threatened, unchanged since the first Report, and vultures remain the most threatened group, with 93 per cent of species globally threatened or Near Threatened, including eight Critically Endangered species;
 - b) more than half (53 per cent) of Annex 1 species are declining and only 11 per cent are increasing, so that further species may qualify as Near Threatened or threatened unless action is strengthened; declines are particularly severe in Africa and among South Asian Gyps vultures;
 - c) the Red List Index indicates that the deterioration in conservation status has slowed since the MOU entered into force but has not been reversed; no species changed Category between MOS3 and MOS4, reflecting the limited number of reassessments rather than evidence of stability;
 - d) agricultural conversion and hunting, trapping and poisoning remain the most severe threats, while electrocution and poisoning are the leading recorded human-induced causes of death of tracked raptors; highly pathogenic avian influenza, changing rodent cycles, armed conflicts and intraguild interactions are identified as emerging threats;
 - e) genuine gaps exist in the List of Sites for several Category 1 species, notably African vultures, and site protection is highly uneven, averaging 87.4 per cent in Europe, 50.7 per cent in Africa and 25.5 per cent in Asia;
 - f) case studies on the Egyptian Vulture in the Balkans, the Eastern Imperial Eagle in the Pannonian region and the Saker Falcon in Bulgaria and Romania demonstrate that coordinated, flyway-scale action can halt and reverse declines;
 - g) knowledge gaps on population size and trends, threats and the effectiveness of conservation actions remain substantial and geographically uneven, and four Category 1 species (Beaudouin's Snake-eagle, Tawny Eagle, Pallas's Fish-eagle and Steller's Sea-eagle) are not covered by an international species action plan.
8. The Report concludes that prioritizing globally threatened and declining species, closing geographic gaps in site protection and monitoring, strengthening the implementation of existing conservation instruments, including the CMS task forces and species action plans, and developing coordinated responses where these remain absent will be central to improving the conservation status of migratory raptors.

Future Reports

9. It is envisaged that the Conservation Status Assessment Report shall continue to:
- a) be produced for each Meeting of Signatories to provide information on the status of Annex 1 species and an assessment of the impact of the implementation of the provisions of the Raptors MOU;
 - b) take into account new assessments as they become available, including the updated Red List assessment at EU27 level expected to be completed in December 2026, and the outcome of the work on the application of Category 2.

Recommended actions

10. The Meeting is recommended to:
- a) endorse the Second Conservation Status Assessment Report contained in Annex 1 to this document;
 - b) request the Technical Advisory Group, subject to the availability of resources, to produce an updated Report taking into account new assessments as they become available, in time for the next Meeting of Signatories.