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National Report Form for the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors MOU).

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Introduction

Introductory remarks

This is the National Report form for the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors MOU).

The purpose of the National Report is to provide information on your country's implementation of the Raptors MOU including the Action Plan (Annex 3). The format provided here has been designed to generate information that can be synthesised in a comparable way for each future Meeting of Signatories, to give a meaningful picture of progress and reflect the achievements of Signatories and other stakeholders, but also to be as streamlined as possible to keep the work involved in reporting to a necessary minimum.

The format was tested ahead of the third Meeting of Signatories (MOS3) and formally was approved by MOs3 in 2023. The Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MOU will compile and analyze the National Reports and present a summary on the implementation of the Raptors MOU Action Plan to MOS4.

Reporting period

To enable proper analysis, it is important that all respondents relate their answers (throughout this form) to the same reporting period. On this occasion we are asking you to report on the period between November 2021 and April 2026.

The previous implementation survey covered the period July 2019 - October 2021, the results of which can be found in the Synthesis of national reports submitted by Signatories and Cooperating Partners on their implementation of the MOU.

Instructions

Please answer all questions as fully and as accurately as you can. Wherever possible, please indicate the source of information used to answer the question, particularly if a published reference or report is available. For each relevant question there are icons that can be used to attach a document and/or provide a web link.

When working on the online version of the report, save your information by clicking on the “Save all” button inside each section. An auto-save feature also saves any changed responses every 30 seconds, and whenever you move between sections.

Guidance notes are provided throughout the format to assist you in answering the questions.

Deadline for submission: 30 June 2026

I. ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

* Name of Signatory State:

Croatia

* Any territories which are excluded from the application of the MOU:

/

Report Compiler

* Name and title:

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* Full name of institution:

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Designated Contact Point for the MOU

(if different from Report Compiler)

Name and title of designated Contact Point:

Full name of institution:

Mailing address:

Telephone:

Email:

II. HIGH-LEVEL SUMMARY OF KEY MESSAGES

GUIDANCE:

This section invites you to summarise briefly the most important positive aspects of Raptors MOU/Action Plan implementation in your country and the areas of greatest concern.

Your answers should be based on the information contained in the body of the report: the intention is for this section to distil the technical information in the report into some very brief and simple "high-level" messages for decision-makers and for wider audiences.

Although keeping it brief, please try also to be specific where you can, e.g. “New wildlife legislation enacted in 2020 doubled penalties for poisoning birds of prey” is more informative than “stronger laws”; “50% shortfall in match-funding for GEF project on vultures” is more informative than “lack of funding”.

GUIDANCE:

Please limit this specifically to the current reporting period only. For this present round of reporting, the period is from 1 November 2021 to the present.

In your country, in the reporting period, what does this report reveal about:

* The most successful aspects of implementation of the MOU and/or Action Plan? (List up to five items)

Conservation objectives and measures for migratory birds of prey, as well as related monitoring obligations, are continuously being integrated in the 10-year management plans for the forestry sector.
Promoting, as far as possible, high environmental standards, including through Environmental Impact Assessments, in the planning and construction of structures to minimize their impact on species, particularly by collision and electrocution, and seeking to minimize the impact of existing structures where it becomes evident that they constitute a negative impact for the species concerned.
Building capacity for conservation actions (in relevant institutions) to combat illegal poisoning by raising knowledge.
Raising awareness about birds of prey, their current plight and the threats that they face, and defining and implementation of the measures that need to be taken to conserve them.

* The greatest difficulties in implementing the MOU and/or Action Plan? (List up to five items)

Limited capacity for the detection, investigation and prosecution of wildlife crime.
Insufficient coordination and standardized procedures for handling poisoning and poaching cases.
Limited detection and documentation of poisoning incidents, resulting in an incomplete evidence base for assessing the scale of illegal persecution.
Monitoring of the populations of most birds of prey is still insufficient, so population size, population trends, and causes of decline for these species remain unknown.
Mainstreaming of conservation measures for birds of prey in other sectors, particularly agriculture, due to insufficient institutional capacities, advice and training, and no buy-in from stakeholders and the local community.

* The main priorities for future implementation of the MOU and/or Action Plan? (List up to five items)

1.4. Ensure that legislation protecting birds of prey and controlling the factors that may threaten them is effectively implemented and enforced.
2.1. Prepare and implement single species, or, if more appropriate, multispecies, action plans for all globally threatened species, taking account of existing international plans and where necessary extending them to cover the entire African-Eurasian range of each species.
2.3. Endeavour to facilitate supplementary feeding opportunities for necrophagous birds of prey, taking account of relevant sanitary considerations.
5.1. Promote awareness, informed consideration and where possible integration of the needs of bird of prey conservation into the policies and practices of relevant sectors such as agriculture, forestry, energy, transport, waste and tourism.
6.2. Develop species and site monitoring protocols; and design and implement coordinated monitoring programmes.

III. RAPTOR CONSERVATION STRATEGIES AND EQUIVALENT DOCUMENTS

GUIDANCE:

A central provision of the MOU (paragraph 12) is for Signatories to prepare national or regional (e.g. EU) strategies or equivalent documents (e.g. Single Species Action Plans) for category 1 and, where appropriate, category 2 species in Table 1 in the Action Plan. The Action Plan itself foresees its listed actions being addressed by these strategies / equivalent documents.

* Does a national and/or regional Raptor Conservation Strategy or equivalent document exist in relation to your country?

- [x] Yes
- [ ] In preparation
- [ ] No

* Please state the title and scope of the strategy or equivalent document, and summarise the current status of its implementation or preparation (as appropriate):

The EU's strategic approach to raptor conservation as regional Raptor Conservation Strategy describes how raptor conservation is implemented within the EU, through the existing EU frameworks, particularly through the Birds Directive. As the Directive protects all naturally occurring wild birds in the EU, this document covers all raptor species within the EU. The report on the implementation of the Birds Directive in Croatia for the period 2019-2024 will be available by the end of 2026 at European Environment Agency data reporting and data flows portal (https://www.eea.europa.eu/en/about/who-we-are/our-knowledge-network-eionet). At the time of writing this report, the data were available in an Excel spreadsheet format and could be accessed here: https://hrpres.mzoe.hr/s/4BHWoQR263pseTJ

Provide a copy of the document(s) concerned:

And/or provide a website link that will give access to the relevant text:

https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/40a6006d-87f9-11ec-8c40-01aa75ed71a1/language-en

* Does the strategy or equivalent document address all of the activities listed in Table 2 of the Action Plan?

- (•) Yes
- ( ) Partly
- ( ) No

IV. LEGAL PROTECTION OF SPECIES AGAINST KILLING AND UNSUSTAINABLE EXPLOITATION

* Are all species of migratory birds of prey (present in your country) listed in Annex I of the Raptors MOU granted full legal protection from deliberate killing and taking from the wild?

GUIDANCE:

Follow this link to see the species listed in Annex 1.

If you are answering "yes", please make sure that the statute(s) concerned is/are clearly identified by giving details of title, date, etc.

If you are answering "only partly", please be clear whether this is because legal protection only applies to some aspects, or because only some species are covered (please identify the species) or because only some areas are covered - (or any combination of these types of partial coverage); and give the reasons for this.

- (●) Yes
- ( ) Parly
- ( ) No
- ( ) Not known

* Please indicate the statute(s) concerned and summarise the provision:

Nature Protection Act (OG No. 80/13, 15/18, 14/19, 127/19, 155/23) - NPA
Ordinance on strictly protected species (OG No. 144/13 and 73/16)
Killing and taking from the wild is prohibited by national legislation (article 153 of the NPA). However, there is a possibility for the exceptions to the prohibition. Extraordinary circumstances under which an exception may be granted are possibility of serious damage to crops, livestock, forests, fishponds, waters and other forms of property; protection of public health and safety, air safety or other overriding public interests. In this case it is necessary to obtain a permit from the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Green Transition. The permit shall be issued if it is determined that there are no other suitable possibilities and that the use of the exception will not harm the viability of populations of strictly protected species in their natural range of distribution and will not have negative effect on their favorable conservation status. The permit prescribes conditions and deadlines for carrying out activities, as well as monitoring and reporting obligations.
NPA consolidated text (Croatian only) https://www.zakon.hr/z/403/Zakon-o-za%C5%A1titi-prirode

* Is there legislation in place which bans the use of exposed poison baits and other toxic chemical methods of predator or pest control?

GUIDANCE:

The CMS Guidelines to prevent the risk of poisoning to migratory birds provide further background on legislative (and other) means of reducing harm to migratory birds (including raptors) from toxic chemicals.

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No
- ( ) Not known

* Please indicate the statute(s) concerned, and summarise the provision:

Article 66 of the NPA bans the use of poisons as well as poisonous and stupefying baits for catching and/or killing of birds.

V. SPECIES POPULATION MANAGEMENT AND RECOVERY PROGRAMMES

Have any Single or Multi-species Action Plans been published for any species of migratory bird of prey in your country?

- [x] Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] In preparation

* Please list the species involved and the status of each Plan:

Management plan for Gyps fulvus with Action Plan for the period 2025-2035 – published

Provide a copy of the document(s) concerned:

And/or provide a website link that will give access to the relevant text:

Management plan for Gyps fulvus with Action Plan for the period 2025-2035 (Croatian only) (https://mzozt.gov.hr/UserDocsImages/UPRAVA%20ZA%20ZA%C5%A0TITU%20PRIRODE/Plan%20upravljanja%20s%20AP_bjeloglavi%20sup.pdf)

* Have any reintroduction or restocking projects been implemented involving migratory birds of prey in accordance with prevailing international guidelines?

GUIDANCE:

One of the most relevant international guidelines documents for this question is the IUCN publication "Guidelines for reintroductions and other conservation translocations".

- ( ) Yes
- (•) No
- ( ) Not known

* Please state why not:

Recent analyses in the process of development of Action Plans for priority migratory species have not recognized the need for reintroduction or restocking as conservation measures. However, in 2026 Association BIOM started the small scale project to assess the feasibility of reintroducing the Cinereous Vulture (Aegypius monachus) to Croatia, where the species became extinct during the first half of the 20th century. The project will evaluate suitable habitats, potential risks, legal and logistical requirements, and involve key stakeholders in developing recommendations for a future reintroduction programme. By building on Croatia's successful

conservation of the Griffon Vulture, the project seeks to strengthen biodiversity and contribute to the long-term recovery of Cinereous Vulture populations across Europe.(https://www.biom.hr/projekti/sup-starjesina/)

* Have any supplementary feeding initiatives been established and maintained for necrophagous birds of prey?

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No
- ( ) Not known

* Please give a brief summary:

There is a feeding and observation facility on the Bodaj locality in Nature Park Učka as well as feeding facility Strganac, on the island of Cres which regularly provide food for griffon vultures.
Until 2019, the griffon vulture nested only in the area of the Kvarner Islands, although it could regularly be observed over a much wider area, including Istria (Učka and Ćićarija), Gorski Kotar and Lika, Velebit, as well as northwestern Dalmatia and the islands of Pag and Rab. The Public Institution for the Management of Učka Nature Park built a vulture feeding site in 2017 in the Bodaj area, and in 2019, regular food delivery began.The number of vultures at the feeding site Bodaj increased each year, and in 2021, thanks to a camera installed at the site, 28 ringed individuals were recorded. At the beginning of 2022, staff of the Public Institution recorded a breeding colony at Krvave Stijene area, and in May 2024, a field survey of the cliffs where the species nests was conducted, recording a total of five nests and five chicks.

VI. CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF HABITATS AND SITES

* Have any measures been implemented to improve or restore the habitats of species of birds of prey?

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No
- ( ) Not known

* Please give a brief summary:

GUIDANCE:

Please indicate what habitat type, where, and (broadly) what type of measures were involved. Comments on success (or otherwise) would also be valuable.

Under the Rural Development Program of the Republic of Croatia for the Period 2014-2020, Measure 10 “Payment for Agri-environment-climate commitments” comprised 16 types of operations which were implemented until the end of 2024.The aim of the type of operation 10.1.3 “Preservation of high nature value grasslands” was to maintain high nature value grasslands, contribute to the conservation of biodiversity, and prevent further loss of habitats. Under the Strategic Plan for the Common Agricultural Policy of the Republic of Croatia for the Period 2023-2027, the type of operation 10.1.3. has continued as the interventions 31.02. Extensive pasture management and 31.07 Preservation of high nature value grassland.
The INTERREG Danube Free Sky project focuses on improving the conservation of the saker falcon (Falco cherrug) in Kopački Rit Nature Park, a key wetland within the Danube floodplain. The project addresses major threats such as electrocution, habitat degradation, and illegal killing.
Its main activities include strengthening population monitoring, installing bird-safe power infrastructure,

improving habitat conditions, and raising awareness among local stakeholders. Special emphasis is placed on cooperation with energy companies and authorities to reduce mortality risks.
By combining field conservation actions with regional cooperation, the project aims to create safer breeding and migration conditions for the saker falcon and contribute to biodiversity protection in the wider Danube region.
More information: https://danubefreesky.eu/hr/
The LIFE Support project focuses on improving the conservation of threatened bird species in Croatia, particularly griffon vultures and other scavenging raptors. It addresses key threats such as poisoning, habitat disturbance, and insufficient monitoring.
Main activities include strengthening population monitoring, establishing rapid response systems for poisoning incidents, improving cooperation among institutions, and raising public awareness. The project also supports capacity building for wildlife crime detection and promotes safer environments for scavenging birds.
By combining conservation actions, stakeholder cooperation, and awareness campaigns, LIFE Support aims to ensure safer habitats and long-term survival of vulnerable raptor populations.
More information: https://www.biom.hr/projekti/projekt-life-support/

Measures address major threats such as electrocution, habitat degradation, and illegal killing. Projects activities aim at strengthening population monitoring, establishing rapid response systems for poisoning incidents, improving cooperation among institutions, and raising public awareness.

* Which sites in your country listed in Table 3 of the Action Plan are designated as protected areas, or are otherwise appropriately managed taking into account the conservation requirements of migratory birds of prey?

Please indicate in this online file (link) for each of the relevant sites listed in Table 3 of Annex 3 of the MOU whether the site is (a) fully designated as a protected area or covered by an instrument ensuring proper management, (b) partially so designated/covered, or (c) not so designated/covered. If you experience any issues accessing the online file, please contact the Raptors MOU Coordinating Unit at umberto.galloorsi@un.org to request a copy as an email attachment.

GUIDANCE:

The list is extracted from the List of internationally important sites for migratory birds of prey in Africa and Eurasia (Table 3 of Annex 3 of the Raptors MOU) as approved by the Third Meeting of Signatories. Please answer this question in relation to the sites that are listed there. Please provide your answers in the online file by following the link above. The file will automatically save your answers.

- (●) I have added the relevant information for my country's sites
- ( ) My country does not have sites listed

VII. ASSESSING AND RESPONDING TO THREATS AND PRESSURES

* Have any assessments been made of the nature, likelihood, severity or potential consequences of threats facing birds of prey, and measures identified to maintain their Favourable Conservation Status?

GUIDANCE:

"Favourable Conservation Status" should be interpreted for this question in accordance with the definition

provided in Article I (1) (c) of the Convention on Migratory Species. (Link to text here).

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No
- ( ) Not known

* Please give a brief summary:

> Croatia reported on the conservation status of all regularly occurring wild bird species, including birds of prey, in accordance with Article 12 of the Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC). Report on the implementation of the conservation of wild birds i.e. Article 12 reports was submitted in 2025, covering the period 2019–2024. A population is considered to be in favourable conservation status when it shows a stable or increasing population trend. Reports also include an assessment of threats and the implementation of conservation measures.

* Based on the assessment referred to above (or if none, on your own knowledge and judgement) please identify (tick) the **three most important** categories of threat affecting birds of prey in your country:

GUIDANCE:

This question asks you to identify the important pressures that are reliably known to be having an actual adverse impact on migratory birds of prey at present. Please avoid including speculative information about pressures that may be of some potential concern but whose impacts have not yet been demonstrated.

Exactly 3 selection(s)

- [x] Direct killing and taking
- [x] Collisions and electrocution
- [ ] Alien and/or invasive species
- [ ] Disturbance and disruption
- [x] Habitat destruction/degradation
- [ ] Climate change
- [ ] Levels of knowledge, awareness, legislation, management etc.
- [ ] Other (please specify below)

* Add comments here on any particular actions in response to these threats:

GUIDANCE:

You may find it helpful here to refer to actions assisted by relevant existing response tools and initiatives in the framework of mechanisms such as the CMS. Examples could include the Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT), Intergovernmental Task Force to Address Illegal Hunting, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (ITTEA), South-West Asia Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force (SWA ITB TF), the CMS Energy Task Force, and the adopted Guidelines to Prevent the Risk of Poisoning to Migratory Birds.

The Socioeconomic analysis of illegal killing and capturing of birds in Croatia (URL:https://www.biom.hr/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Hendal-istrazivanje-stavova-lovaca-o-krivolovu-2024.-1.pdf) was conducted in 2024 for the Biom Association by the market and public opinion research agency. The analysis consisted of two parts – a survey of hunters' perceptions and a desktop study. The study pointed out the causes of poaching, which should make it easier to combat poaching.
The maps of the sensitivity of the Croatian territory to the development of solar and wind power plants were published in December 2024. They were developed through the cooperation between the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Green Transition (MEPGT), The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the Hrvoje Požar Energy Institute, using advanced machine learning models and expert analyses, and during their creation, about a million animal observations and modelled distribution predictions for more than 350 species were processed, after which the input models were validated and selected by experts for vulnerable groups such as birds, bats and large carnivores. The maps enable precise risk assessments and informed decision-making on possible locations of solar and wind power plants with minimal impact on nature. The maps reflect the relative sensitivity of selected elements of nature to non-integrated solar photovoltaic power plants larger than 1 MW and to wind power plants and are designed as a quick and pragmatic way to assess the described sensitivity. They were created to answer the question: "In which area within the Republic of Croatia can we expect the highest or lowest conflicts with nature when planning the location of wind and solar power plants?" More information on the sensitivity maps, guidelines for their use and layers is available on the MEPGT webpage (Croatian only) and https://bioportal.hr/gis/ (layer group Karte osjetljivosti RH za VE i SE).
Measures and guidelines against electrocution, such as bird-safe insulation of electricity pylons, bird exclusion device, artificial bird safe perch, medium voltage lines placed underground, are integrated in the internal working documents of HEP Group - national energy company (HEP-ODS). In 2024, HEP ODS signed a contract for the allocation of grants under the National Recovery and Resilience Plan for the Modernization of the Croatian Distribution Network project ("Modernization of the Network within the Natura 2000 Area"). One of the key activities of this project is the modernization of the network in Natura 2000 areas. The total eligible cost of this activity amounts to EUR 49.1 million, of which 93.7% is covered by grants. The modernization work includes the design, construction, and reconstruction/modification of the overhead power network, in accordance with the applicable regulations of the Republic of Croatia.
The international LIFE Danube Free Sky project aims to ensure a safer migration route along the Danube and improve the survival rates of 19 priority bird species by reducing bird mortality caused by power lines in 22 Natura 2000 Important Bird Areas (IBAs). HEP ODS participates in the project by implementing measures to reduce bird electrocution and collisions with power lines in the Elektroslavonija Osijek area, within Kopački Rit Nature Park. This is achieved by installing insulation equipment on pole-mounted transformer stations, adding optical diverters to 35 kV overhead lines, and replacing bare conductors with insulated ones on 10(20) kV overhead lines.
Within the LIFE SUPport project HEP ODS is participating as one of the project's beneficiary partners, with the goal of implementing mitigation measures to prevent bird electrocution. HEP ODS activities are being carried

out in the Elektroprimorje Rijeka area and involve installing bird protection measures on 200 poles of the overhead medium-voltage network.

* Are requirements in place to ensure that proposals for activities that may have significant effects on birds of prey or their habitats are subject to Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) or Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA)?

GUIDANCE:

Helpful pointers on this subject (and reference to sources of further guidance) are given in CMS Resolution 7.2 (Rev.COP14) on "Impact assessment and migratory species".

Comments on the general standard and quality of EIAs/SEAs that are undertaken would be valuable.

Any use that has been made of "sensitivity mapping" techniques in this context should be mentioned here.

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No
- ( ) Not known

* Please give a brief summary of the requirements and their implementation, including the extent to which the results of these assessments are used to inform relevant consent decisions and associated mitigation measures:

Ecological Network Impact Assessment (ENIA) is carried out for strategies, plans, programs and projects. When it comes to strategies, plans and programmes, ENIA is performed within the SEA for strategies, and when it comes to projects, it is performed either as an independent procedure, or within the EIA in the case of projects for which EIA is obligatory. ENIA is implemented for projects or for parts of projects that may have a significant negative impact, either independently or in combination with other projects, on conservation objectives and on the integrity of areas of the Natura 2000 ecological network. If the ENIA concludes that the negative impact is significant, project mitigation measures are prescribed in relation to conservation objectives for the areas of the ecological network where the project is implemented or where the project may have an impact.
For wind power projects, ENIA commonly includes obligations for post-construction monitoring of impacts on birds and bats based on best available theologies. To date, the shutdown-on-demand system has been installed in two wind farms in Croatia.

VIII. ACTION / INTEGRATION ACROSS SECTORS

* Is the conservation of migratory birds of prey integrated within the policies of sectors such as agriculture, forestry, energy, transport, waste, tourism and others?

- ( ) Yes
- (●) Partly
- ( ) No
- ( ) Not known

* Please give a brief summary:

Ordinance on the conservation objectives and main measures for bird conservation in the area of the ecological network (Official Gazette 25/20 and 38/20) is in place. It defines conservation objectives and main measures which are implemented within the framework of planning documents for natural resources management, spatial planning documents, management plans for protected areas and / or ecological network areas, management plans for strictly protected species and during the implementation of interventions and / or activities that could affect the objectives of their conservation. With the purpose of improving management of ecological network sites, draft Ordinance on the conservation objectives and main measures for bird conservation in the area of the ecological network has been under public consultations from 23rd April until 26th May 2026. Following the public consultation, raptor conservation goals in the proposed Ordinance contain attributes regarding population sizes and trends updated with recent data, securing favourable conservation status and key habitats for both breeding and feeding, including known and suspected territories, ensuring safe flight, securing high-risk pylons for electrocution, ensuring favourable habitat structure in forests and wetlands, ensuring adequate prey populations as well as supplementary feeding facilities.
As regards agriculture sector, under the Rural Development Program of the Republic of Croatia for the Period 2014-2020, Measure 10 “Payment for Agri-environment-climate commitments” comprises 16 types of operations which were implemented until the end of 2024.The aim of the type of operation 10.1.3 “Preservation of high nature value grasslands” was to maintain high nature value grasslands, contribute to the conservation of biodiversity, and prevent further loss of habitats. Under the Strategic Plan for the Common Agricultural Policy of the Republic of Croatia for the Period 2023-2027, the type of operation 10.1.3. has continued as the interventions 31.02. Extensive pasture management and 31.07 Preservation of high nature value grassland.
As regards forestry sector, conservation measures for migratory birds of prey are part of their 10-year management plans. As regards energy sector, measures and guidelines against electrocution (bird-safe insulation of electricity pylons, bird exclusion device, artificial bird safe perch, medium voltage lines placed underground) are integrated in the internal working documents of HEP-Distribution system operator.

* Have any programmes been implemented during the reporting period among government departments (other than the department that has lead responsibility for the Raptors MOU) to inform decision makers of the conservation needs of migratory birds of prey?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No
- ○ Not knowm

* Please state why not:

Due to insufficient human and financial resources.

IX. RESEARCH, MONITORING AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

* Have any overall assessments been made of the status and trends of any populations of migratory birds of prey in your country, during the reporting period?

- ◉ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Not known

* Please give a brief summary, and highlight any particularly significant declines or increases that have been revealed for relevant species:

Article 17 of the EU Habitats Directive and Article 12 of the EU Birds Directive requires Member States to report every six years about the progress made with the implementation of the Directive. The progress reporting under the Birds Directive is streamlined with the Habitats Directive and integrated into the State of Nature of the EU report. Following this obligation, Croatia prepared an assessment of conservation status and trends of all regularly occurring bird species in 2025 assessing the data for the period 2019-2024. Among others, report for the period 2019-2024 included 36 populations of 32 raptor species (for some species more than 1 population was evaluated - for example besides breeding, wintering population was evaluated too).
Due to the lack of long term monitoring data population size trend (as an indicator of the conservation status of the population) for 7 populations was evaluated as unknown, 17 populations are evaluated as stable, 4 as increasing and 7 as decreasing (breeding populations of Buteo buteo, Aquila chrysaetos, Falco tinnunculus, Aquila heliaca, Circus pygargus, Falco cherrug and Aquila fasciata). Trend of the one species (Falco subbuteo) was evaluated as uncertain.
Aquila heliaca was a rare breeding species in Croatia. The last known breeding pair was a transboundary pair nesting near the Croatian–Serbian border, with the nest located in Serbia and part of its foraging range extending into eastern Croatia. Due to various pressures, this pair disappeared from the breeding area. Since 2016, several conservation projects have been implemented in Serbia and Hungary, including areas in the vicinity of the former breeding site associated with Croatia. However, these efforts have not yet resulted in a positive response from the species in Croatia.
The population of Haliaeetus albicilla is increasing owing to conservation measures such as protecting breeding sites from forestry operations.
Stable are breeding population of for example Circus aeruginosus, Falco eleonorae, Gyps fulvus but since most of them are quite low in numbers or/and localized on several breeding sites they are highly sensitive and dependent on adequate site (colony) management and preventing illegal activities especially illegal killing, poisoning and disturbance. Prevention of the burning of old reedbeds is crucial for the conservation of the Circus aeruginosus.
Four raptor species with declining population trends are common raptor species with widespread and abundant populations. Their population trends reflect the overall quality of farmland habitats. According to the results of the Common Bird Monitoring Scheme, the most significant negative impact on common farmland bird species has been caused by the abandonment of agricultural land following the cessation of farming activities. A particularly negative impact comes from the decline of traditional extensive farming and mosaic agricultural landscapes, as well as the abandonment of grassland mowing and grazing. As a result, agricultural areas become overgrown with shrubs and scrub vegetation, leading to the loss of suitable habitats for birds.
Decreasing of the Aquila chrysaetos population is connected with cessation of livestock farming, illegal killing and disturbance as well.

Please provide a copy of any relevant documents:

And/or provide a website link that will give access to relevant material:

The report on the implementation of the Birds Directive in Croatia will be available by the end of 2026 at European Environment Agency data reporting and data flows portal (https://www.eea.europa.eu/en/about/who-we-are/our-knowledge-network-eionet).
At the time of writing this report, the data were available in an Excel spreadsheet format and could be accessed here: https://hrpres.mzoe.hr/s/4BHWoQR263pseTJ

* Are any systematic and coordinated monitoring programmes operated in your country in relation to breeding populations, reproductive success or migration counts of birds of prey?

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No
- ( ) Not known

* Please give a brief summary:

Species specific monitoring programmes are implemented for Gyps fulvus, Aquila chrysaetos and Haliaeetus albicilla. Common farmland raptors are being monitored within Common Farmland Birds Index (FBI) Monitoring Scheme. Wintering populations of raptors are being monitored within Wetlands International wintering waterbirds monitoring (IWC).

Please provide a copy of any relevant documents:

And/or provide a website link that will give access to relevant material:

* Have any guidelines or protocols been published concerning systematic or coordinated monitoring programmes for migratory birds of prey?

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No
- ( ) Not known

* Please give the source reference(s) and a brief summary:

Monitoring protocols have been developed only for several raptor species.

Please provide a copy of any relevant document(s):

And/or provide a website link that will give access to relevant material:

Haliaeetus albicilla: Mikuska, T. (2013): Monitoring program za štekavca (Haliaeetus albicilla), Hrvatsko društvo za zaštitu ptica i prirode, IPA MANMON projekt; https://www.haop.hr/hr/tematska-podrucja/prirodne-vrijednosti-stanje-i-ocuvanje/pracenje-stanja-prirode/provedba-pracenja
Falco eleonorae:Radović D. (2010): Protokol za monitoring Eleonorinog sokola (Falco eleonorae) u Hrvatskoj; https://www.haop.hr/hr/tematska-podrucja/prirodne-vrijednosti-stanje-i-ocuvanje/pracenje-stanja-prirode/provedba-pracenja
Strix uralensis: Tutiš, V. (2013): Monitoring Programme ural owl (Strix uralensis) in Croatia, Institute of Ornithology, Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, IPA MANMON project; https://www.haop.hr/hr/tematska-podrucja/prirodne-vrijednosti-stanje-i-ocuvanje/pracenje-stanja-prirode/provedba-pracenja
Common farmland birds (incl. raptors): Dumbović Mazal V. (2016):Program monitoringa čestih vrsta ptica poljoprivrednih staništa u Hrvatskoj; https://www.haop.hr/hr/tematska-podrucja/prirodne-vrijednosti-stanje-i-ocuvanje/pracenje-stanja-prirode/provedba-pracenja

Wetland species: Mikulić, K., Hodić, S. 2023.: Program praćenja stanja ptica močvarica (ne pjevice). Obrt SKUA i IBIS program d.o.o. , Zagreb; https://hrpres.mzoe.hr/s/EaDEwKS7HNqmn5D
Falco naumanni: Mikulić, K., Hodić, S. 2023.: Program praćenja stanja bjelonokte vjetruše. Obrt SKUA i IBIS program d.o.o. , Zagreb; https://hrpres.mzoe.hr/s/4CSd4x8tjKT6JNK
Falco cherrug: Mikulić, K., Hodić, S. 2023.: Program praćenja stanja stepskog sokola. Obrt SKUA i IBIS program d.o.o. , Zagreb; https://hrpres.mzoe.hr/s/4CSd4x8tjKT6JNK

* Does any process exist for establishing multi-stakeholder agreement about priorities for research on issues of relevance to the conservation of birds of prey?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No
- ○ Not known

* Please state why not:

Due to insufficient human and financial resources.

* Are suitable platforms in place in your country to exchange knowledge, experience and information about the conservation of birds of prey?

- ◉ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Not known

* Please identify the relevant platform(s) and summarise its/their scope and function:

Although they are not targeted at birds of prey, there are two mailing lists for sharing of relevant information on the work and topics of the nature protection sector. The initial list is used for internal communication between the Ministry of economy and sustainable development (Nature Protection Directorate and Institute for the Environment and Nature), Public Institutions for Management of Protected Areas and County Administrative Departments in charge of nature protection. After many interests and initiatives of colleagues from the non-governmental and private sector, new mailing list intended for professionals in the nature protection sector started to operate in April 2018. The second mailing list includes employees of the aforementioned institutions but also members of non-governmental organizations working in the nature protection sector, independent experts, consultants and employees of private companies operating in the sector, as well as employees and associates of scientific or educational institutions whose scientific or educational work is related to nature protection sector.
Also, although not targeted at birds of prey, annual meeting of expert services in nature protection sector is providing exchange of information and experiences of employees of expert services related to more efficient management, i.e. protection and preservation of species and habitats as well as promotion and sustainability of the protected areas.
Another useful platform for the exchange of knowledge, experience and information related among others to birds of prey is Annual Seminar of Rangers
One more useful platform are the Annual meetings of ornithologists organised alternatingly by NGOs Biom and Croatian society for protection of birds and nature.

X. RAISING AWARENESS

* Have any public awareness programmes been implemented during the reporting period to promote the importance of birds of prey, their migrations and their conservation needs?

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No
- ( ) Not known

* Please give a brief summary including comments on the impact and success (or otherwise) of these programmes:

As part of the project "Development of management framework for Natura 2000 ecological network", implementation of the national campaign “Voice of Nature” focused on raising the awareness of general public on the importance of nature conservation, with extensive TV campaign, billboards and dedicated webpage (https://glasprirode.hr/). Please also see brief summary for XI. Strengthening capacity.

* Have any education programmes or teaching resources been provided during the reporting period to inform young people and students about migratory birds of prey and their conservation needs?

- ( ) Yes
- ( ) No
- (●) Not known

XI. STRENGTHENING CAPACITY

* Have any training or other support programmes been implemented during the reporting period to strengthen the capacity of agencies responsible for the application of relevant laws and regulations?

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No
- ( ) Not known

* Please give a brief summary:

In order to preserve and improve the current state of the Griffon vulture population in Croatia, the five-year LIFE SUPport project has started in 2023. By promoting the use of lead-free ammunition and increasing the capacity of competent institutions to combat the poisoning of wild animals, cases of vulture poisoning will be prevented. An important reason why herdsmen are giving up livestock farming is the damage caused to their herds by jackals, which is also the reason for setting up poisonous baits that often kill Griffon vultures as well. The project aims to significantly reduce threats by using methods such as different types of fences, the use of dogs and cooperation with hunters.
https://www.biom.hr/en/projects/life-support-project/
Additionally, BalkanDetox LIFE project was implemented until the end of April 2026 in Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, the Republic of North Macedonia and Serbia, to tackle illegal wildlife poisoning of by raising awareness and strengthening national capacities.
https://balkandetoxlife.eu/2026/04/30/balkandetox-life-comes-to-an-end/

* Have any training or other initiatives been implemented during the reporting period to support activities undertaken by local communities or voluntary groups in relation to birds of prey surveys, monitoring, site protection work or related outreach?

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No
- ( ) Not known

* Please give a brief summary:

Association BIOM, BirdLife partner in Croatia has implemented several outreach and training projects:
Project “Mountain climbers for golden Eagle “ (duration 2025-2027) is co-financed by European Outdoor Conservation Association. The goal of this project is to protect golden eagle nesting sites by involving climbers and outdoor enthusiasts in monitoring, awareness-raising, and the removal of illegal poisoned baits, thereby improving the conservation of the species and its habitats.(https://www.biom.hr/projekti/penjanjem-za-surog-orla/)
Project „Development of the Safe Flyways programme” The Impact4Values 2.0 ((duration 2025-2027)) – focuses on strengthening the capacity and long-term implementation of the Safe Flyways initiative, which addresses the protection of migratory birds and the reduction of illegal and human-induced threats such as poaching, poisoning, and collisions with infrastructure. The project develops improved approaches for monitoring threats to birds, enhances cooperation with institutions and the judiciary, and strengthens advocacy efforts for more effective enforcement of relevant regulations. A particular emphasis is placed on engaging citizens through volunteer programmes and community-based monitoring. It also includes educational activities and international cooperation aimed at raising awareness about bird conservation and improving the protection of migratory flyways. https://www.biom.hr/projekti/impact4values-2-0-razvoj-programa-safe-flyways/
Project INTERREG Aviator (Avian resilience and adaptation through Awareness monitoring, Treatment, and Outreach for Raptors) (duration 2025-2027) (https://www.biom.hr/projekti/interreg-aviator/) aims to improve the resilience of birds of prey in the Danube Region. It focuses on addressing key threats such as infectious and parasitic diseases, climate change, habitat loss, and other human-induced pressures that affect raptor populations.
The project brings together partners from multiple countries to develop and test coordinated approaches for monitoring, prevention, and control of diseases in raptors. It combines scientific research, pilot field actions (such as disease surveillance and vector control), and the development of shared methodologies and tools.
A key objective is to strengthen cross-border cooperation between veterinary, conservation, and public health sectors, ensuring more effective and harmonized conservation strategies. Ultimately, the project aims to support healthier raptor populations and contribute to the long-term conservation of biodiversity in the region. (https://www.biom.hr/projekti/interreg-aviator/)
The LIFE EBP (EuroBird portal)) (duration 2023-2026) The LIFE EBP project improves European bird monitoring by strengthening the EuroBird Portal platform, which compiles and visualizes bird distribution data from across Europe. It promotes the use of standardized monitoring methods and citizen science data (especially “complete lists”) to increase data quality and fill gaps in underrepresented regions. The project also enhances tools and participation to support better conservation planning and biodiversity policy. https://www.biom.hr/projekti/life-ebp/
The Adriatic Flyway 5 project (duration 2023-2026) aims to reduce illegal killing of birds along the Adriatic migratory route, particularly in the Neretva Delta, by strengthening monitoring, enforcement, and local community engagement. It focuses on decreasing poaching pressure through improved national coordination, policy advocacy, and public awareness activities. The project also builds a network of volunteers and birdwatchers to support monitoring and reporting of illegal activities, while working to reduce demand for illegally hunted birds. In addition, it promotes cooperation among regional partners to improve conservation and enforcement efforts across the wider Adriatic flyway https://www.biom.hr/projekti/jadranski-preletacki-put-5/

* During the reporting period, has your country *provided* any new financial or other resources for conservation activities specifically benefiting migratory birds of prey?

GUIDANCE:

"Other resources" in this context could include, for example, "in-kind" forms of support such as staff time or administrative infrastructure, loan of equipment, provision of data processing facilities or technology transfer. (Do not include training or mentoring schemes and other initiatives for capacity building however, as these are covered separately in the preceding two questions).

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No
- ( ) Not known

* Please state the beneficiary/ies concerned and the activities supported:

In December 2024, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Green Transition published a call for proposals "Improved Management of Protected Areas and Natura 2000 Areas" within the framework of the Competitiveness and Cohesion Programme 2021 - 2027. The aim of the Call was to contribute to the conservation and achievement of a favourable conservation status of target species and habitat types and the sustainable management of ecosystems and biodiversity through the implementation of conservation, restoration and management activities of protected areas and ecological network areas in the Republic of Croatia. The call was addressed to pre-determined applicants, i.e. public institutions for the management of national and nature parks and public institutions for the management of protected areas of nature at the county level. Among the 34 projects approved until the end of April 2026 many encompass conservation activities specifically benefiting migratory birds of prey.
BalkanDetox LIFE project was co-financed in Croatia by the Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund. https://www.biom.hr/en/projects/life-support-project/

* During the reporting period, has your country *received* any new financial or other resources for conservation activities specifically benefiting migratory birds of prey?

GUIDANCE:

See guidance on interpretation of "other resources" provided in relation to the preceding question.

- ( ) Yes
- (●) No
- ( ) Not known

* Please state why not:

Since the accession to the European Union in 2013, Croatia is not any more in a position to receive ODA/OOF.

XII. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

* During the reporting period, has your country participated in any international cooperation activities as provided by paragraph 8 of the MOU?

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No
- ( ) Not known

* Please give a brief summary:

The LIFE SWiPE project ("Successful Wildlife Crime Prosecution in Europe") provided an overall picture of wildlife crime at the European scale, focusing on the 11 target countries of the project with an emphasis on Central and South-Eastern European countries with special reference to cross-border aspects. It identified the scale and commonality of problems arising along the enforcement chain, gaps in current practices, reasons for successfully investigated cases leading to prosecution and common issues along the enforcement chain leading to failed prosecution. Best practice approaches from relevant countries were identified and national and EU-level policy recommendations provided. There were pilot cases in Spain, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, Serbia, and Croatia, with best practice examples regarding monitoring birds, demonstrating sniffer dogs and training existing dog units to detect wildlife crime, using applications for reporting crimes, fostering better inter-agency cooperation, developing a criminalistics education module, and establishing a wildlife crime hub. Report is available at: swipe_european_summary_report_july_2023.pdf
https://stopwildlifecrime.eu/about-the-project/

* During the reporting period, has your country taken any steps to support or encourage any other Range State (s) to sign the Raptors MOU?

- ( ) Yes
- (●) No
- ( ) Not known

* Please state why not:

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