



RAPTORS
MOU

6.22 Changes to the species list

Vicky Jones & Lucy Haskell
TAG/ BirdLife International

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Background



- Proposed species-relevant updates to Annex 1 and Annex 3, Table 1 derive from tasks set at MOS2 in the TAG workplan which have been taken forward under a contract with BirdLife International and TAG input at TAG3 and on the TAG workspace/ Teams
- Updates to Annex 1 and Table 1 since MOS2 discussed at TAG3 in December 2018; work updated in October 2021 using latest 2021 IUCN Red List data
- These updates were made available for feedback on the TAG workspace and are summarised in document 6.2b

Does we need to propose any revisions to Annex 1 in advance of MOS4?



Reasons for changes:

- **Migratory status**
- **Taxonomic/ nomenclature changes**



Overview of proposed updates to Annex 1



Reminders from TAG3

- TAG3 agreed to propose replacing Brown Boobook (*Ninox scutulata*) on Annex 1 with Northern Boobook (*Ninox japonica*) which is the migratory portion of a taxonomic split.
- TAG3 considered but did not support adding Bonelli's Eagle to Annex 1 pending further evidence of movements of wild individuals

Overview of proposed updates to Annex 1

Post-TAG3 proposal as posted on TAG Teams

- Black Kite *Milvus migrans* has been split resulting in a new raptor species within the geographic extent of the MOU –Yellow-billed Kite *Milvus aegyptius*
- Yellow-billed Kite considered at least a partial intra-African migrant by Ferguson-Lees & Christie (2001) ‘Raptors of the World’ and Clark & Davies (2018) ‘African Raptors’; movements described in Annex A of Doc 6.2b) appear to meet the CMS definition of ‘migratory’
- A TAG representative from Africa voiced agreement that Yellow-billed Kite meets the CMS definition of migratory and no responses to the contrary on Teams, so TAG should propose that both elements of the split be retained in Annex 1, which means effectively adding Yellow-billed Kite to Annex 1

For information

Re: Eurasian Scops Owl *Otus scops* which is on Annex 1, the distribution of the nominate no longer includes Cyprus because a taxonomic split results in a newly recognised species *O. cypria* Cyprus Scops Owl. *O. cypria* is non-migratory so does not need to be listed on Annex 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.'

Resulting proposed changes to Annex 1



MOS2 93 species + Northern Boobook – Brown Boobook + Yellow-billed Kite = 94 species on Annex 1

As explained in previous agenda item (and Doc 6.2a) changes are proposed to the MOU text to recognise the order Accipitriformes and corresponding changes have been made in proposed Annex 1

TAG is asked to endorse the resulting update to Annex 1 (listing 94 species and recognising the order Accipitriformes as presented in Annex B of Doc 6.2b)

New form for proposal of species for Annex 1 (TAG4/ 6.2b/ Annex E)



EXTRACT.....

Please confirm that the species proposed meets all of the criteria below:

1. It is a species of <i>Accipitriformes</i> , <i>Falconiformes</i> or <i>Strigiformes</i> recognised in the latest checklist of the Birds of the World provided at http://datazone.birdlife.org/species/taxonomy ³ .	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. All or part of the species distribution is within Africa or Eurasia ⁴ .	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. It meets the CMS definition of “migratory species” as outlined above.	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. If this species has been proposed for addition to Annex 1 previously ⁵ and not accepted, please confirm that additional/new evidence is provided to support the case for listing.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Proposed species for addition to Annex 1

Species scientific name:		Species common name:	
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Justification for proposed listing:

Justification of how the proposed species meets criteria 1-4 (specified above) should be provided in the box below. Please provide either in the justification box or as an attachment any supporting publication, report, map or other evidence for consideration (noting the key pages of relevance). Please note that where ringing, re-sighting or tracking data are provided as evidence, this should relate to wild hatched individuals. Such information from captive bred/reared and released individuals will not be considered eligible. Information from wild hatched individuals which have spent a short period in captivity for rehabilitation will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

- TAG3 asked for development of a standard form to be used by Signatories
- Draft form shared on TAG Teams
- Provides guidance and definitions
- To maximise relevance and quality of proposals form asks respondent for a series of checks before submission
- States that evidence of movement must come from wild hatched individuals
- **TAG is asked to endorse form for use**

Update Annex 3 Table 1 Categorisation

Reminder of purpose of Table 1

In Table 1 of the MOU, Annex 1 species are divided into three 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

More on Category 2 of Table 1, Annex 3



Category 2 is ‘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 latest European Red List of Birds; or,
- b) On the basis of BirdLife International latest data, 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 latest data in Birdlife International database.

Proposed Annex 3 Table 1 Category changes since MOS2 (see Annex B of Doc 6.2b)



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2021 Scientific name	2021 Common Name	Table 1 category (2015)	Table 1 category (2021)	Table 1 Category change since MOS2?	Reason for category change
<i>Strix nebulosa</i>	Great Grey Owl	CAT3	CAT2	YES	Qualifies as SPEC
<i>Bubo scandiacus</i>	Snowy Owl	CAT2	CAT1	YES	Global RL status uplisted from LC to VU
<i>Chelictinia riocourii</i>	Scissor-tailed Kite	CAT2	CAT1	YES	Global RL status uplisted from LC to VU
<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	European Honey-buzzard	CAT2	CAT3	YES	Global population trend now stable
<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>	Oriental Honey-buzzard	CAT3	CAT2	YES	Global population trend now declining
<i>Circaetus cinereus</i>	Brown Snake-eagle	CAT3	CAT2	YES	Global population trend declining
<i>Nisaetus nipalensis</i>	Mountain Hawk-eagle	CAT2	CAT1	YES	Global RL status uplisted from LC to NT
<i>Aquila rapax</i>	Tawny Eagle	CAT2	CAT1	YES	Global RL status uplisted from LC to VU
<i>Hieraaetus ayresii</i>	Ayres's Hawk-eagle	CAT3	CAT2	YES	Global population trend now declining
<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>	Levant Sparrowhawk	CAT3	CAT2	YES	Qualifies as SPEC
<i>Milvus milvus</i>	Red Kite	CAT1	CAT3	YES	Global RL status downlisted from NT to LC, global population trend now increasing, no longer qualifies as SPEC
<i>Milvus migrans</i>	Black Kite	CAT2	CAT3	YES	No longer qualifies as SPEC
<i>Buteo trizonatus</i>	Forest Buzzard	CAT3	CAT1	YES	Global RL status uplisted from LC to NT
<i>Falco columbarius</i>	Merlin	CAT3	CAT2	YES	Now qualifies as SPEC
<i>Falco severus</i>	Oriental Hobby	CAT2	CAT1	YES	Global RL status uplisted from LC to NT
<i>Falco rusticolus</i>	Gyrfalcon	CAT3	CAT2	YES	Qualifies as SPEC

NB/ the SPEC dataset is only provisional until early 2022 and one or two Annex 1 spp could have their IUCN Red List status assessed early next year too. TAG will be alerted to any such changes.

Proposed Table 1: 32 species in Category 1, 27 species in Category 2 and 35 species in Category 3

13 species have worsening conservation status reflected in a proposed Table 1 category change since MOS2, 3 improved

More detail is provided of all Annex 1 species, their proposed Table 1 categories and supporting information in the TAG4/inf.5 document

Looking ahead to Table 1 at MOS4



- One criterion for identifying unfavourable conservation status for Category 2 species relies on global population trend
- Two criteria relate to regional level processes to identify regionally unfavourable conservation status.
- **Outside of Europe if TAG members are aware of any regional process to assess species conservation status at a regional scale please let us know**
- **If any of TAG feel there are Annex 1 species for which the current IUCN Global Red List status or global population trend (see TAG4/inf.5) does not reflect their current conservation status or global population trajectory please let us know, pointing to evidence the Red List team in BirdLife can review**

2021 FAMILY	2021 Common Name	Global Red List status (2021)	CMS Appendices eligibility
ACCIPITRIDAE	Red-headed Vulture	CR	Could qualify for CMS Appendix I
ACCIPITRIDAE	White-headed Vulture	CR	
ACCIPITRIDAE	White-rumped Vulture	CR	
ACCIPITRIDAE	White-backed Vulture	CR	
ACCIPITRIDAE	Indian Vulture	CR	
ACCIPITRIDAE	Slender-billed Vulture	CR	
ACCIPITRIDAE	Rüppell's Vulture	CR	
ACCIPITRIDAE	Egyptian Vulture	EN	
ACCIPITRIDAE	Hooded Vulture	EN	
ACCIPITRIDAE	Lappet-faced Vulture	EN	
ACCIPITRIDAE	Steppe Eagle	EN	
ACCIPITRIDAE	Black Harrier	EN	
ACCIPITRIDAE	Pallas's Fish-eagle	EN	
FALCONIDAE	Saker Falcon	EN	
ACCIPITRIDAE	Scissor-tailed Kite	VU	Could qualify for CMS Appendix II
ACCIPITRIDAE	Beaudouin's Snake-eagle	VU	
ACCIPITRIDAE	Cape Vulture	VU	
ACCIPITRIDAE	Greater Spotted Eagle	VU	
ACCIPITRIDAE	Tawny Eagle	VU	
ACCIPITRIDAE	Spanish Imperial Eagle	VU	
ACCIPITRIDAE	Steller's Sea-eagle	VU	
FALCONIDAE	Red-footed Falcon	VU	
FALCONIDAE	Sooty Falcon	VU	
STRIGIDAE	Snowy Owl	VU	
ACCIPITRIDAE	Bearded Vulture	NT	
ACCIPITRIDAE	Himalayan Griffon	NT	
ACCIPITRIDAE	Cinereous Vulture	NT	
ACCIPITRIDAE	Mountain Hawk-eagle	NT	
ACCIPITRIDAE	Eastern Imperial Eagle	NT	
ACCIPITRIDAE	Pallid Harrier	NT	
ACCIPITRIDAE	Forest Buzzard	NT	
FALCONIDAE	Oriental Hobby	NT	

Raptors MOU Table 1 v CMS Appendices



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- **CMS Appendix I** currently provides good coverage of Raptors MOU Table 1, Category 1 species
- Black Harrier (*Circus maurus*) Vulnerable to Endangered on the global IUCN Red List in 2017 and TAG3 recognised this species as a potential priority for development of an international SAP
- A range state could now propose this species for CMS Appendix I ahead of the next CMS COP if there was interest and TAG could potentially offer technical support if helpful
- Re: **CMS Appendix II** has sp specific Osprey listing (*Pandionidae*) and family level listings of *Accipitridae* & *Falconidae* but no Strigiformes (owls) are listed on CMS Appendix I or Appendix II
- Snowy Owl recently Least Concern to Vulnerable on the global IUCN Red List and could potentially be proposed by an interested CMS Party/ range state for CMS Appendix II at the next CMS COP

Plans for a species document for MOS3



TAG will need to put forward one or more documents for MOS3 covering the proposed species-related amendments to the Annexes. We would propose a single rationale document for the species related changes, which:

- Explains proposed changes to Annex 1 (on basis of taxonomy/ migratory status)
- Explains proposed changes to Annex 3 Table 1
- Annexes an updated version of Annex 1
- Annexes an updated version of Table 1
- Annexes the species proposal form to list species on Annex 1

Actions for TAG4 consideration



- **Endorse proposing Yellow-billed Kite (*Milvus aegyptius*) to Annex 1 and consequently to Table 1 based on its migratory status**
- **Endorse the proposed update to Annex 1 incorporating changes proposed at TAG3 and TAG4**
- **Endorse the proposed category changes in Table 1 resulting from changes of conservation status or population trends of 16 Annex 1 species**
- **Consider reminding Signatories of the two Annex 1 species that could be proposed by Parties to CMS for inclusion in the CMS Appendixes – (possible TAG support needed in the next workplan)**
- **Endorse the proposal form to list species on Annex 1**