# 6.5 Conservation Status Assessment Report

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# Conservation Status Assessment Report Concept – Doc 6.5

Key fundamental principle of the Raptors MOU Agreement text:

- ‘5. The Signatories will aim to take co-ordinated 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’

- For MOS to have the overview of whether a favourable conservation status is being achieved and maintained for the species on Annex 1 of the MOU throughout their range, it could be valuable for a report to be submitted periodically to future Meetings of the Signatories summarising what is known about the conservation status of Annex 1 species and highlighting any knowledge gap

- The concept for a CSAR was presented at the last informal meeting of TAG in April 2021

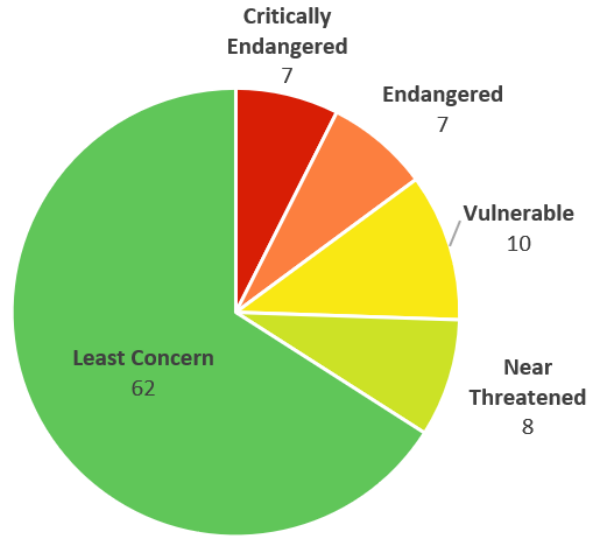
- An outline of the proposed report content for a first trial report to be produced by TAG and presented at MOS3 is provided in Annex A to document 6.5

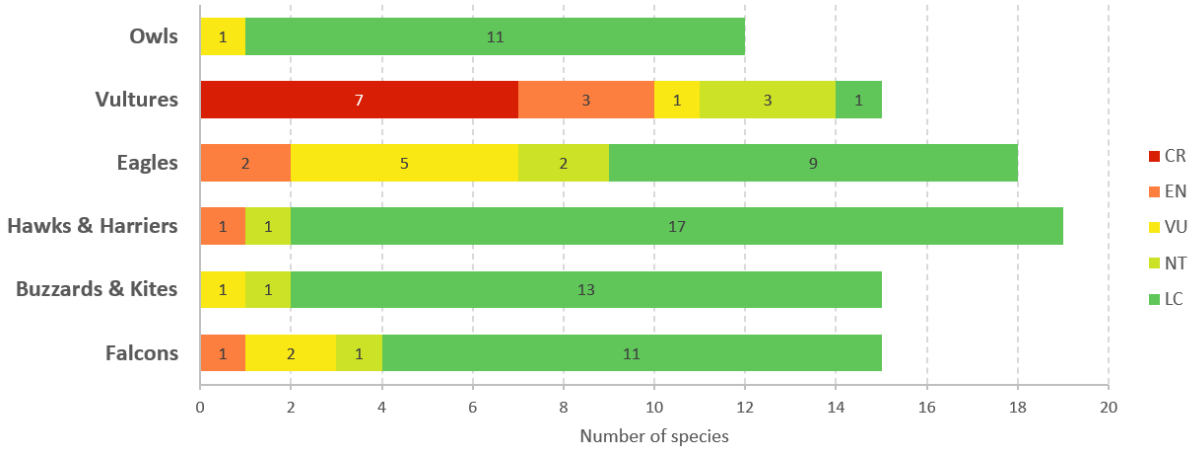
# Doc 6.5 Annex A:

# Key draft content for a first Conservation Status Assessment Report (CSAR)

# A/ What is the current conservation status of migratory raptors in Africa-Eurasia and how has this been changing over time?

- Overview of proportion of Annex 1 species falling within different categories of global IUCN Red List conservation status
- Additional information on conservation status from regional processes
- Overview of trend in the conservation status of migratory raptor species covered by Annex 1 over time
- Table 1 breakdown into different categories now and over time

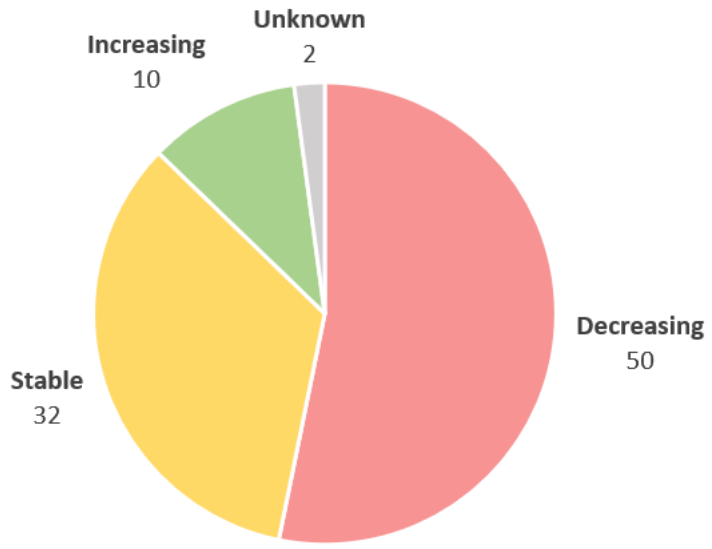


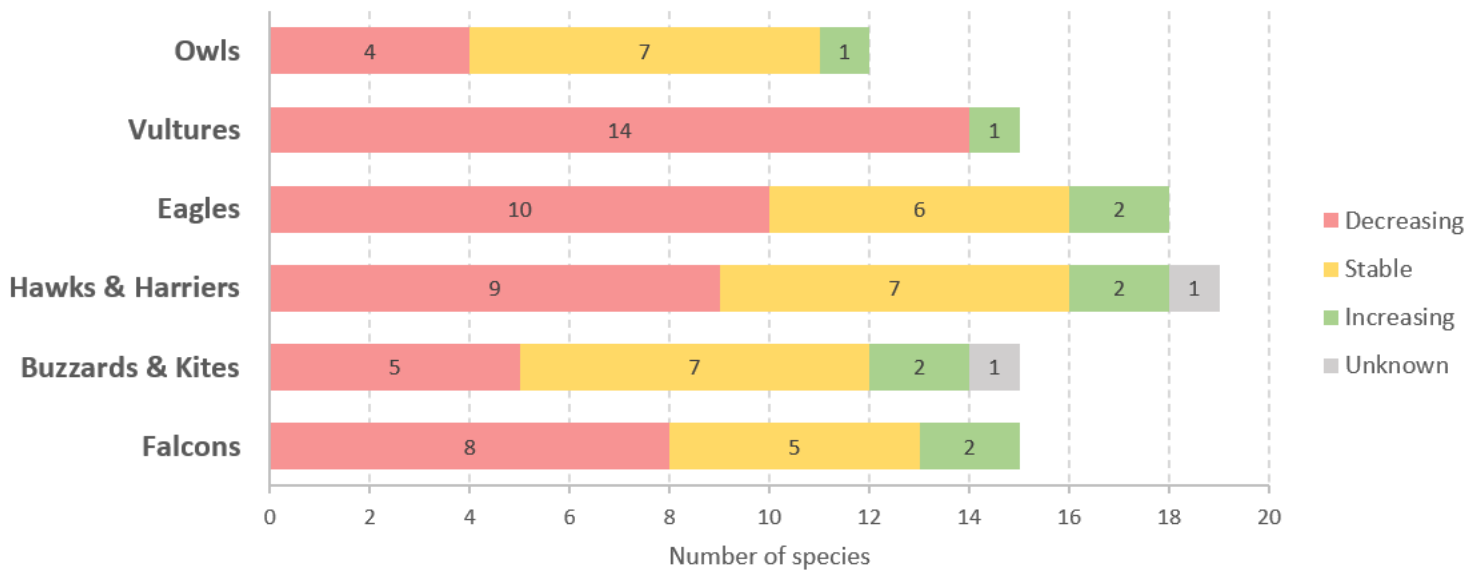



# B. What are the indications of how well we are doing at halting and reversing population declines of migratory raptors in Africa-Eurasia?

- Overview of global or regional population trends of Annex 1 species:

What proportion of species are increasing, stable, decreasing or unknown in population trend?

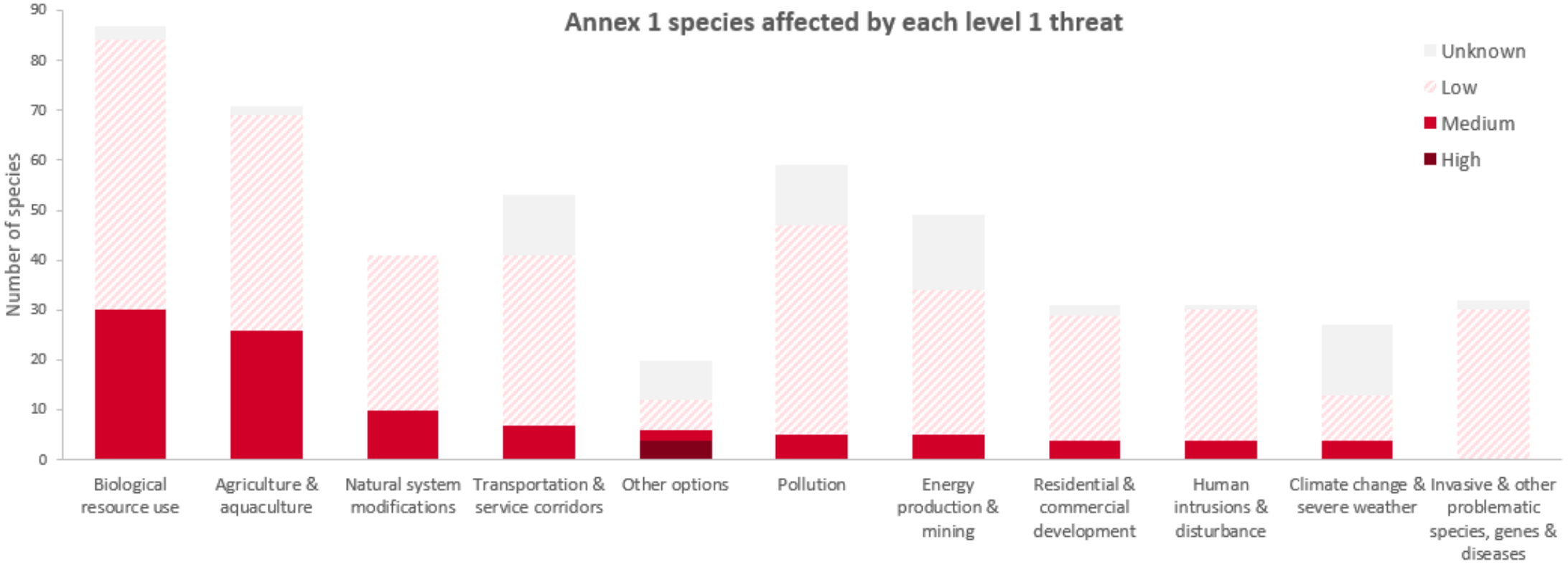


# C. What are the threats recorded to be affecting Annex 1 species?

**PART 1**

- Overview of IUCN coded threats to Annex 1 species
- Detailed breakdown of relative importance of different threats to Annex 1 species.



# C. What are the threats recorded to be affecting Annex 1 species?

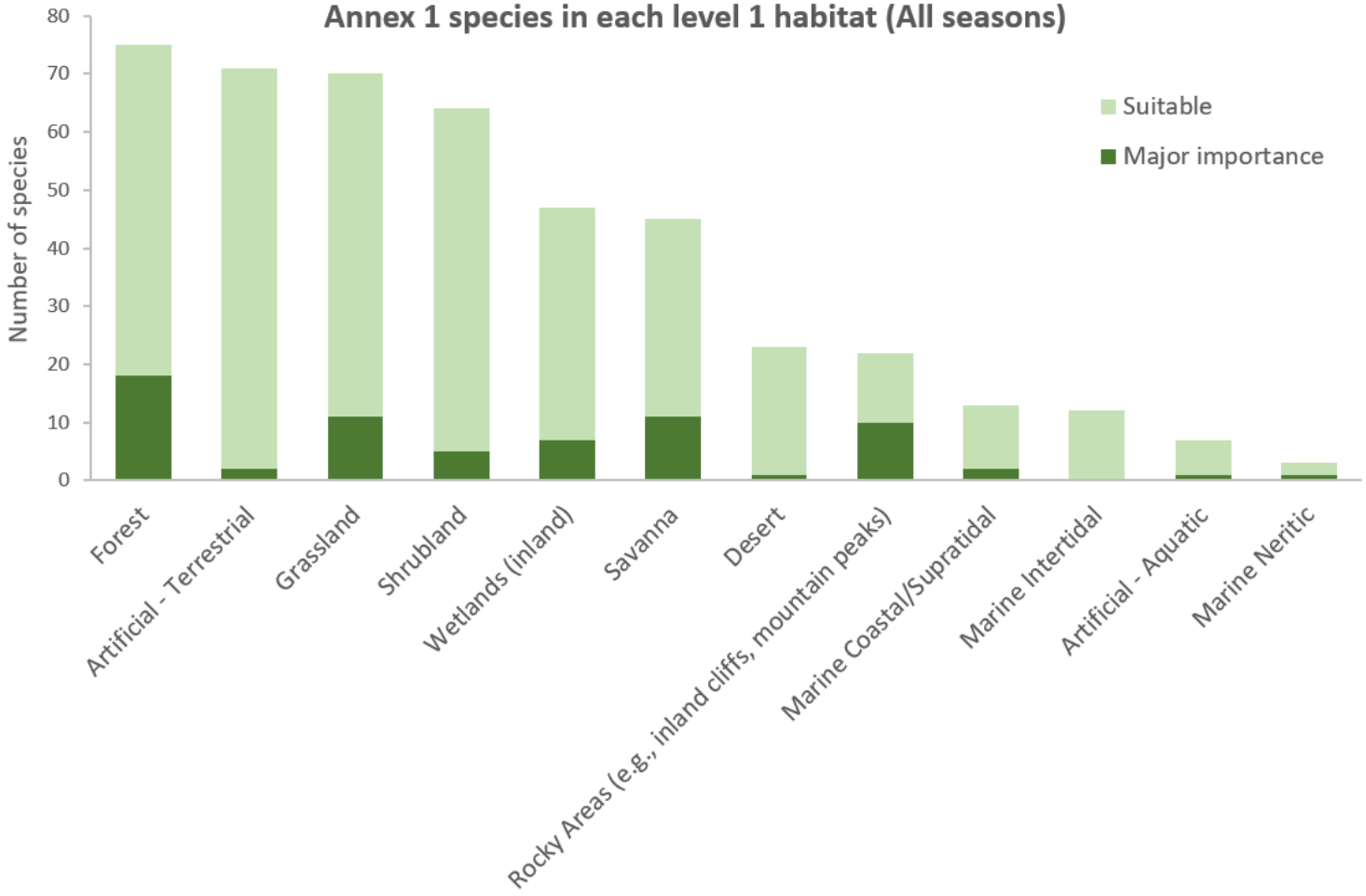
PART 2

- Beside global level coding of threats to Annex 1 species helping us understand the relative importance of different threats in impacting Annex 1 species, other studies may be able to contribute to this or future CSARs

- For example analysis of satellite tracking mortality – there is a proliferation of tracking studies and collating info across a variety of raptor species can give a real world picture of what is killing the raptors we're tracking (BirdLife coordinated study at the moment taking this multispecies approach for large bodied landbirds including raptors being tracked in Africa-Eurasia (narrow geography), but expanding/ replicating for other regions could be very informative. Since illegal killing/ poisoning are emerging as one of the top threats to raptors (along with electrocution/ collision) from this work, the results could actually contribute to 8a) of the TAG workplan *'Provide recommendations on approaches to tackling the issue of illegal persecution including: a) the value of technologies such as electronic tracking methods as means of assessing the extent and location of persecution hotspots, x-ray monitoring, and DNA techniques;'*

# D. Which habitats are of key importance for Annex 1 species?

- Which IUCN habitat's types are most frequently recorded as being suitable or important for Annex 1 raptor species?
- Detailed breakdown of habitats important at different stages of the annual cycle



# E. Conservation actions:
# Overview of gaps in species action plans (as per TAG3)

RAPTORS MOU

| Species | Scientific Name | Red List Status | CMS Appendix | CITES | Threats | Action Plan | Previous Action Plans | Conservation Action in Place | Conservation Actions Proposed |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Greater Spotted Eagle** | *Clanga clanga* | VU | CMS | | There is strong evidence of hybridisation between this species and Lesser Spotted Eagle *Clanga pomarina* (Bergmanis et al. 1997, Lohmus and Vali 2001, Dombrovski 2002, Vali et al. 2010). In some European countries mixed pairs can constitute 50% of Greater Spotted Eagle pairs (Maciorowski and Mizera 2010) or even more (Vali 2011). It is unclear whether this represents a new phenomenon or a conservation concern, but *A. pomarina* is far more numerous than *C.* | | | east opean of of its d 0% of | Survey range and population. Establish long-term monitoring schemes to improve understanding of population trends. Improve understanding of breeding habitat requirements. Protect breeding areas from drainage and rising of infrastructure. Maintain traditional wet meadows. Regulate forestry to minimise disturbance and protect potential nesting trees. Investigate potential threat of hybridisation with *C. pomarina* . Prevent illegal shooting, poisoning and electrocution. Investigate lead poisoning from feeding on quarry. Raise awareness. |
| **Tawny Eagle** | *Aquila rapax* | LC (Currently under review pending the new Red List announce ment ) | CMS | | | | | | Scavenging behaviours of this species make it susceptible to poisoning. There are currently no specific conservation measures in place for the Tawny Eagle but many of the measures being taken to conserve vultures will infer benefits to Tawny eagle in parts of its range such as Namibia. e.g Distribute information on scavenging species and illigality of poisons as well as information about |
| **Steppe Eagle** | *Aquila nipalensis* | EN | CMS I | Appendix II | Kazakhstan (Levin and Kurkin 2013). Three sets of factors have been identified as having detrimental impacts on the species in Russia and Kazakhstan: increased mortality owing to collisions with power lines, pesticide poisoning and direct persecution; a reduction in the area of suitable habitat and a reduction in available food; poor breeding success owing to destruction of nests and juvenile mortality during spring fires and disturbance by people and livestock (Strategy of the Steppe Eagle Conservation in the Russian Federation 2016). Young eagles are taken out of the nest in order to sell them to western European countries (Mebs and Schmidt 2006). A decline in the number of birds and a reduction in the proportion of juveniles migrating over Eilat, Israel began immediately after | None | | Priority species for RRRCN in Russia, some systematic monitoring, tracking and education initiatives. | Dangerous electric powerline constructions should be replaced or fitted with protective devices. Promote a ban on the use of diclofenac in Europe. Educate herdsmen and other locals in the ecological value and vulnerability of this species (Tucker and Heath 1994). Protect remaining grassland steppes in Europe and the rest of its range. Protect remaining grassland steppes in Europe and the rest of its range. Dangerous electric powerline constructions should be replaced or fitted with protective devices. Educate herdsmen and other locals in the ecological value and vulnerability of this species |

- A report on the work TAG engaged in and presented at TAG3 (UNEP/CMS/Raptors/TAG3/Doc.4.2a) to:
  - Summarise which Table 1 Category 1 species (the globally threatened and near threatened species) are not currently known to have an international single species action plan (SSAP) or be covered by an international multi-species action plan (MsAP)
  - Highlight gaps where TAG3 considered the development of an SSAP or MsAP could be beneficial in coordinating efforts to reverse the decline in a Table 1 Category 1 species
  - Had included this in the CSAR to find it a ‘home’ for MOS3, but actually it’s not about conservation status, but gaps in conservation response
  - Might therefore be better to leave this out of the CSAR and consider other options – like add into the species rationale doc or as a separate inf paper?

# F. Conservation actions: Comparison of Raptors MOU Table 1 Category 1 and CMS Appendices

| 2021 FAMILY | 2021 Common Name | Global Red List status (2021) | CMS Appendices eligibility |
|---|---|---|---|
| ACCIPITRIDAE | Red-headed Vulture | CR | |
| 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 | Could qualify for CMS Appendix I |
| 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 | |
| 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 | Could qualify for CMS Appendix II |
| 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 | |

- Which Raptors MOU Annex 1 Category 1 species are not listed on CMS Appendices and could be proposed?
- We discussed this work under agenda item 6.2.2
- We will need to decide whether the report of this work goes into the species rationale doc covering the species relevant changes to the Raptors MOU annexes or whether it belongs in the CSAR

# G. Key knowledge gaps

- Report can highlight knowledge gaps that if filled, could improve conservation status assessment

# The CSAR for future Meetings of Signatories

- The MOS3 CSAR will be a relatively small scale test of concept. MOS3 will also test national reporting and there could be some link between its research/ monitoring Qs/ any synthesis report and CSAR
- Content of future reports could be modified in line with the aim, and potentially expanded to make use of available sources of information to support the needs of the MOU
- Internationally important sites for raptors are clearly a key component in supporting populations of migratory raptors
- It is not proposed to include a site element to the MOS3 CSAR since Table 3 is still under discussion
- Analysis of the site network (such as that undertaken by TAG as a pilot) could be a useful addition to the CSAR in the future
- Comparing with the AEWA cycle David Stroud illustrated yesterday with waterbird monitoring through IWC ➡ Waterbird Population Estimates ➡ Conservation Status Report ➡ Changes to Table 1, we have work to do

# Actions for TAG4 consideration

- **Consider approving the basic concept put forward for a regular Conservation Status Assessment Report to inform MOS**

- **Provide feedback on whether elements such as E: the overview of gaps in species action plans and F: the comparison of Raptors MOU Category 1 species with CMS Appendices are best covered in the CSAR for MOS3, the rationale doc covering the species related changes to the Annexes of the Raptors MOU or another form?**

- **Pending a decision at or after TAG4 on E and F, consider approving the content put forward for the 1st CSAR for MOS3**