

Fourth Meeting of the Technical Advisory Group | *Online, 13-15 December 2021*

RAPTOR CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ISSUES: HORIZON SCANNING

Prepared by the Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MOU in collaboration with the TAG Chair

Introduction

1. Horizon scans of global conservation issues are of considerable importance in supporting work to identify and tackle potential conservation and management issues. Some important reviews have been published recently, notably on global biological conservation issues¹, and some key related issues such as those relating to illegal wildlife trade² and global climate change³. There is considerable interest in this area with emphasis as much on foresight as horizon scanning⁴.
2. Some specialist horizon scans on birds have already been published⁵, but most tend to be topic related, such as on non-native invasive species⁶.

Raptors MOU and Horizon Scanning

3. When it met in 2018, TAG considered a paper on horizon scanning⁷. In Section 3, that paper set out the ten key conservation issues (essentially threats) identified in the Action Plan. However, beyond these there is a range of emerging issues which will impact raptors. Annex A of that paper lists 13 potential issues for the Raptors MOU.
4. It is timely to carefully consider the range of issues ahead, not least as the UNFCCC COP26 and forthcoming CBD COP15 processes conclude and in view of TAG's mandate to review its Work Plan for the period 2021-2025 to be submitted to MOS for approval. TAG is well-placed to bring issues to the attention of the Signatories which may be emerging as factors likely to affect the conservation status of migratory raptors either directly or indirectly (and which may not be explicitly covered within the current Action Plan).

¹ Sutherland et al. A 2021 Horizon Scan of Emerging Global Biological Conservation Issues. [https://www.cell.com/trends/ecology-evolution/fulltext/S0169-5347\(20\)30306-2](https://www.cell.com/trends/ecology-evolution/fulltext/S0169-5347(20)30306-2)

² Esmail et al. Emerging illegal wildlife trade issues: A global horizon scan. <https://conbio.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/conl.12715>

³ Pihl et al. Ten new insights in climate science 2020 – a horizon scan. <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/global-sustainability/article/ten-new-insights-in-climate-science-2020-a-horizon-scan/02F477AAABBD220523748C654EBD6F15>

⁴ Cuhls. Horizon Scanning in Foresight – Why Horizon Scanning is only a part of the game. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/ffo2.23>

⁵ Sutherland et al. A horizon scanning assessment of current and potential future threats to migratory shorebirds. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1474-919X.2012.01261.x>

⁶ Roy et al. Horizon scanning for invasive alien species with the potential to threaten biodiversity in Great Britain. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/gcb.12603>

⁷ UNEP/CMS/Raptors/TAG3/Doc.4.3a available as an information document to this meeting

5. Horizon scanning is typically carried out by a team of scientists/specialists with wide-ranging interests and geographical expertise⁸. This would produce the summary of current and anticipated threats in a transparent and democratic manner. Given TAG already has a list of threats and potential emerging issues it should discuss these first. Following that, a decision could be taken on forming a group to develop the work further.

Action requested:

TAG is requested to:

- a) Review the list of issues in Annex A of document UNEP/CMS/Raptors/TAG3/Doc.4.3a, and to suggest ways forward for each;
- b) Add any new potential emerging issues, including ways forward;
- c) Prioritise the issues, agreeing the top five to bring to the attention of the Signatories; and
- d) Consider the formation of a group of specialists to develop the work on emerging issues facing raptors in Africa and Eurasia.

⁸ [Sutherland et al. Methods for collaboratively identifying research priorities and emerging issues in science and policy. <https://besjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.2041-210X.2010.00083.x>](https://besjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.2041-210X.2010.00083.x)