

Guidelines for Preparing National or Regional Raptor Conservation and Management Strategies

Within the Framework of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors MoU)



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Executive Summary

According to the provisions of Paragraph 12 of the Raptors MoU, within two years of it becoming effective, Signatories will aim to prepare and submit to the Interim Coordinating Unit (ICU), where appropriate a National or Regional (e.g. European Union) Strategy or equivalent documents (e.g. Single Species Action Plans) for Category 1 and, where appropriate, Category 2 species listed in the Action Plan (Annex 3). The Raptors MoU came into force on 1 November 2008.

The purpose of these Guidelines is to propose a standard format for National or Regional Raptor Conservation and Management Strategies (NRCMS and RRCMS), and to promote raptor conservation strategic planning and subsequent implementation. It is structured into nine main Chapters.

The Introduction ([Chapter 1](#)) should provide a short overview to the background of the Guidelines, a brief SWOT¹ assessment of the administrative planning environment and encourages the overall Goal and Objectives of the strategy to be identified.

The General information ([Chapter 2](#)) should document key administrative information in tabular format.

The Biological Assessment ([Chapter 3](#)) should summarize the most relevant technical information required, including a National or Regional factsheet about the environmental features of the area to which the strategy applies; relevant legislation and policy instruments; existing raptor monitoring schemes; inventories and priorities for relevant species, sites and habitats; a threat assessment and a stakeholder analysis.

The section on Conservation Approach ([Chapter 4](#)) should present the fundamental components of the National or Regional Raptor Conservation and Management Strategy, and is guided directly by the Action Plan within the Raptors MoU. National or Regional activities should follow a threat-driven, multi-species approach and should focus on the implementation of the Action Plan of the Raptors MoU. The Strategy should take the following six principal activities (defined in Table 2 of the Action Plan in the Raptors MoU), as the priorities for strategic planning: 1) Improvement of legal protection; 2) Protection and/or management of important sites and flyways; 3) Habitat conservation and sustainable management; 4) Raising awareness of problems faced by birds of prey and the measures needed to conserve them; 5) Monitoring bird of prey populations, carrying out conservation research and taking appropriate remedial measures; and, 6) Supporting measures. However, the planning process is flexible, so Signatories may choose to plan and implement additional activities as measures for achieving the overall Goal and Objectives of the Action Plan.

¹ SWOT – Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats

[Chapter 5](#) is aimed at capturing information about existing and potential international and national sources of funding.

Under Conclusions ([Chapter 6](#)) planners may list the most important constraints or limitations that could have an impact on the implementation of the Strategy.

Further Recommendations ([Chapter 7](#)) should include a brief summary about future needs that are necessary to the successful and effective implementation of the Strategy, including documenting a list of key gaps in existing knowledge.

References ([Chapter 8](#)) should seek to record the key documents used directly during the formulation and development of the Strategy, including those referred to in the document.

Annex I ([Chapter 9](#)) should contain summary Tables, which feed specific data into Chapters 3 – 7.

Annex II should list the proposed National Activities with reference to the Principal Activities summarized in Table 2 of the Action Plan to the MoU.

Annex III should provide a time-frame for the National Activities.

As a separate document to the Guidelines, a Blank Form with the main titles is provided to make strategy development more convenient.

Acknowledgements

The compilers would like to thank the following individuals for their valuable inputs to earlier drafts of these Guidelines: Willem Van Den Bossche (BirdLife Europe, Belgium), Nicola J. Crockford (RSPB, UK), Gerald van Dijk (DNLRA, The Netherlands), M. Abdellah El Mastour (CMS, Morocco), Rozália Érdiné Szekeres (FVM, Hungary), Salim Javed (Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi, UAE), David A. Stroud (JNCC, UK), Michael J. McGrady (Austria) and Dave Wootton (DEFRA, UK).

Introduction

Background

Strategic planning is a critical process for articulating a shared vision, and for building the partnerships that are necessary for disparate organizations to work together on common goals, especially at the international level. Effective planning is essential for moving collaborative programs forward and for gaining the required support from stakeholder groups for successful implementation.

According to the provisions of Paragraph 12 of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors MoU – see <http://www.cms.int/species/raptors/index.htm>), within two years of it becoming effective, Signatories will aim to prepare and submit to the Interim Coordinating Unit (ICU), where appropriate a National or Regional (e.g. European Union) Strategy or equivalent documents (e.g. Single Species Action Plans) for Category 1 and, where appropriate, Category 2 species listed in the Action Plan (Annex 3).

The Raptors MoU came into force on 1 November 2008 and the 1st Meeting of Signatories is being planned to take place in December 2012.

Objectives of the Guidelines

These Guidelines are intended to support strategic planners in developing National or Regional Raptor Conservation and Management Strategies using a standardised format. The principal activities to be undertaken and the specific issues to be addressed by Signatories in order to implement the general provisions of the Raptors MoU are set out in these Guidelines.

The objectives of the Guidelines are to:

- Encourage implementation of the Action Plan to the Raptors MoU through effective strategic planning, including submission by Signatories of their National or Regional Strategies in advance of the 1st Meeting of Signatories to the Raptors MoU.
- Provide general guidance and a standard format for strategic planning activities.
- Promote the formation of partnership and alliances that will improve international collaboration in planning and effective implementation of the Action Plan defined in the Raptors MoU.
- Provide a uniform international framework for Raptor Conservation and Management Strategies, for comparative analysis and also to reveal National and Regional trends.

National or Regional planning teams can determine the activities applicable within the areas of intervention and also the level of detail to be included in their Strategy. This approach is aimed to ensure that planners with different capacities can develop high quality and effective Strategies.

Strategic Action Planning

Planning - Implementation - Monitoring - Evaluation - Planning: an opportunity to utilise Adaptive Conservation Management

These Guidelines are intended to support adaptive conservation management in order to be able to respond to the uncertainties and challenges in ecosystem and socio-economic processes during the implementation of the strategy.

Within the description of each activity (see Box on Page 20), a set of monitoring indicators should be defined, through which the progress and effectiveness of implementation can be evaluated. Feeding back the evaluation results into process corrective measures can then be used to further improve the outcomes of the conservation activities.

Thus, the principle of "learning-by-doing" is considered to be an essential part of the National or Regional raptor conservation and management strategic planning concept.

Reporting

It is envisaged that Signatories to the Raptors MoU will decide the frequency of reporting at the 1st Meeting of Signatories, scheduled to take place in Abu Dhabi, UAE during December 2012.

However, Paragraph 18 of the Raptors MoU requires Signatories that are also Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) to report to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and to make specific reference to activities undertaken in relation to the Raptors MoU.

An overview of International and National Raptor Conservation and Management Plans: How do National or Regional Strategies fit into conservation planning for migratory raptors?

Several existing multi-national, international and national conservation, management and action planning processes are running in parallel within the administrative arena of the Raptors MoU.

Figure 1 - aims to show how National or Regional Strategies developed under the Raptors MoU fit into the hierarchical framework of conservation planning for migratory raptors.

Regional Raptor Conservation and Management Strategies are positioned at International Level 2. They are designed to support the implementation of the Action Plan defined in Raptors MoU

(International Level 1), whilst simultaneously integrating existing Single Species Action Plans (SSAPs) and Sub-regional Raptor Conservation Strategies (International Level 3).

This means that the present Guidelines apply only for Strategies that are to be prepared in the future. Existing Strategies, SSAPs and equivalent documents can be explicitly incorporated into the development of the National or Regional Strategies. However, it should be noted that existing strategies or SSAPs do not generally cover all of the Category 1 & 2 species listed in the Raptors MoU.

National Raptor Conservation and Management Strategies should be developed to integrate with corresponding National Biodiversity Strategies & Action Plans at the same level (National Level 4). They are fed by National multi- or single-species habitat or site conservation and management plans, or action plans (National Level 5).

International levels

Level 1 - Multi-national level

Raptors MoU, Multi-National Instrument and Action Plan

Paragraph 5 (Implementation Framework) of the Action Plan of the Raptors MoU states:

'The principal activities Signatories ought to undertake in order to implement the general provisions of the MoU and the specific issues addressed in this Action Plan are set out in Table 2. These activities will be addressed by the Strategies, or equivalent documents, as envisaged by Paragraph 12 of the MoU'.

Supporting document: CMS Raptor MoU (specifically, Annex 3, Table 2).

Level 2 - Regional level

Regional Raptor Conservation and Management Strategies and International Single Species Action Plans

Single or multi-species approach at International level covering regions or the whole range of a species. SSAPs set agreed conservation objectives and a framework of actions that help to focus the conservation efforts and limited resources on solving the most important problems.

Supporting document: BirdLife International (2008) Revised Format for the AEWA International Single Species Action Plan.

Examples: Stoychev, Zeitz & Grubac (2004) Action Plan for the Conservation of the Imperial Eagle (*Aquila heliaca*) in the Balkan Peninsula
Iñigo et al. (2008) Action plan for the Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus* in the European Union

Level 3 - Sub-regional level

Sub-regional Raptor Conservation Strategies

Single or multi species approach at international level covering sub-regions or trans-boundary sections of the range of the relevant species in adjacent Range States. These Strategies apply to birds of prey that occur in specific trans-boundary areas.

Supporting document: BirdLife International (2008) Revised Format for the AEWA International Single Species Action Plan.

Example: Probst & Gaborik eds. (2012) Action Plan for the conservation of the White-tailed Sea Eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) along the Danube.

National levels

Level 4 - National level

National Raptor Conservation and Management Strategies and National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans

These Strategies should cover the entire distribution area of all relevant birds of prey species within the administrative area of a country and should aim to answer the following questions:

- What needs to be done nationally to address the key threats to raptors and to implement the general provisions and the Action Plan of the Raptors MoU?
- How can the Level 1 Action Plan be interpreted and implemented at National level?

Supporting documents: UNEP/CMS Raptors MoU (specifically, Annex 3, Table 2).

UNEP/CMS Interim Coordinating Unit to the Raptors MoU (2012) Guidelines for Preparing National or Regional Raptor Conservation and Management Strategies. Abu Dhabi, UAE.

CMS Secretariat (2010). Guidelines on the Integration of Migratory Species into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans. Bonn, Germany.

Areas of Intervention:

Based on the MoU Action Plan, but with flexibility to tailor activities to National conditions and requirements:

1. Improvement of legal protection.
2. Protection and/or management of important sites and flyways.
3. Habitat conservation and sustainable management.

4. Raising awareness of problems faced by birds of prey and the measures needed to conserve them.
5. Monitoring raptor populations, carrying out conservation research and taking appropriate remedial measures.
6. Supporting measures.

Level 5 - Sub-national level

National Single Species Action Plans (SSAPs) and multi-species, habitat or site conservation and management plans

Detailed actions based on already elaborated International SSAPs and National considerations. These plans apply to designated conservation sites or other parts of the countryside within the administrative area of a country.

Supporting document: National SSAPs formats.

Example: Whitfield *et al.* (2008) A conservation framework for Golden Eagles: implications for their conservation and management in Scotland.

References

The following references were used to develop these Guidelines:

- BirdLife International (2001) Important Bird Areas and potential Ramsar Sites in Europe. BirdLife International, Wageningen, The Netherlands. www.birdlife.org/action/change/ramsar/ibas_ramsar_europe.pdf [accessed on 15 June 2012]
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- Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS Secretariat) (2010) Guidelines on the Integration of Migratory Species Into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans. Bonn, Germany <http://www.cbd.int/doc/nbsap/NBSAP-guidelines-CMS.pdf> [accessed on 15 June 2012]
- Iñigo A., Barov B., Orhun C., Gallo-Orsi U. (2008) Action plan for the Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus* in the European Union. BirdLife International, Brussels. http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/docs/neo_phron_percnopterus.pdf [accessed on 15 June 2012] IUCN (2008) Habitats, Threats and Actions Classification Schemes.

<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes/habitats-classification-scheme-ver3> [accessed on 15 June 2012]

Kovács, A., Demeter, I., Horváth, M., Fülöp, Gy., Frank, T., Szilvácsku, Zs. (2005) Imperial Eagle Management Guidelines. MME / BirdLife Hungary, Budapest.

Probst & Gaborik eds. (2012) Action Plan for the conservation of the White-tailed Sea Eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) along the Danube. Bern Convention. Nature and Environment, No.163. Council of Europe. http://www.danubeparks.org/files/840_ActionPlanWTE_publbyCoE.pdf [accessed on 15 June 2012]

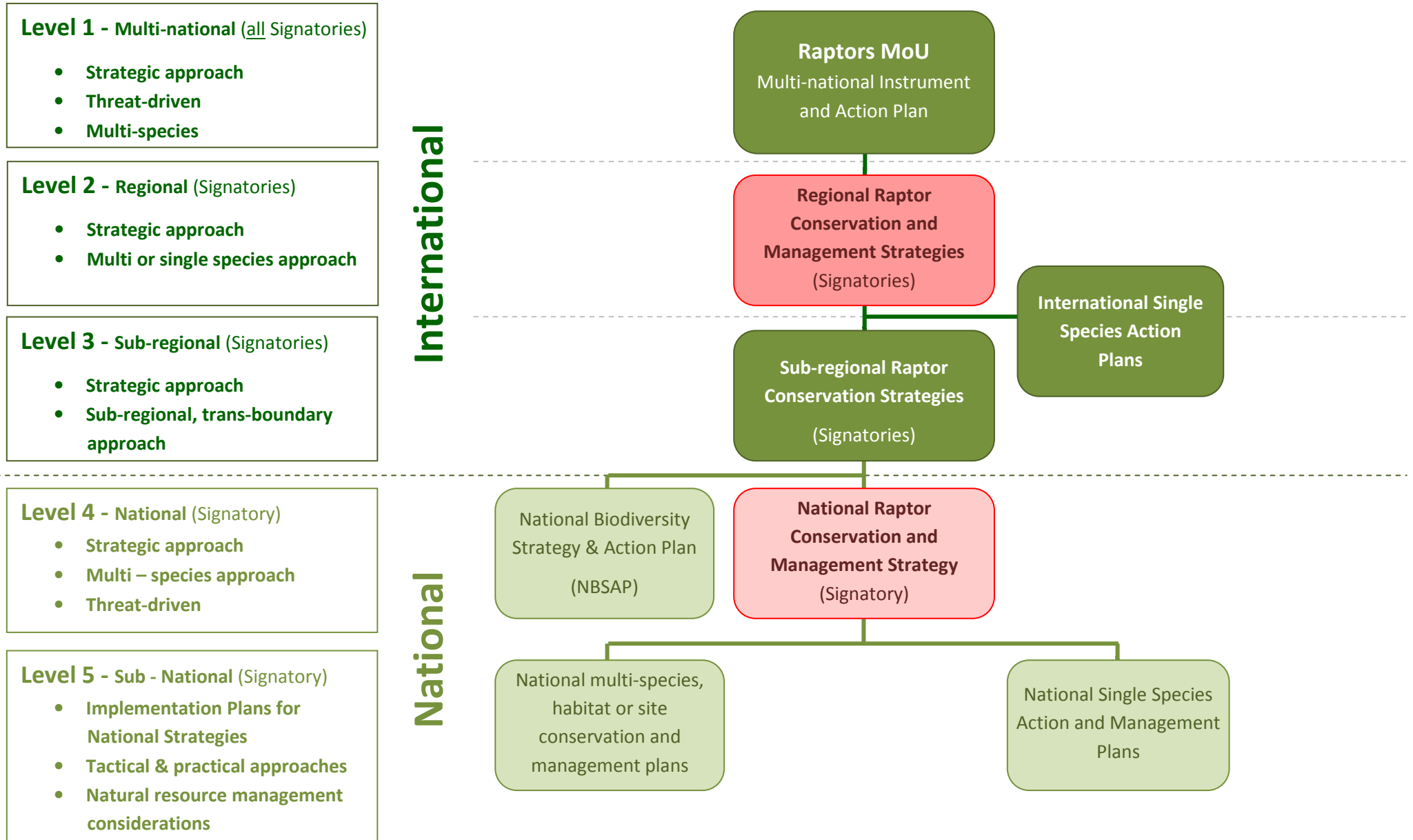
Stoychev, S., Zeitz, R., Grubac, B. (2004) Action Plan for the Conservation of the Imperial Eagle in the Balkan Peninsula. BSPB, Haskovo, Bulgaria.

UNEP/CMS, Raptors MoU (2010) Guidelines for Preparing National or Regional Strategies. Abu Dhabi, UAE. Manuscript.

Whitfield, D P, Fielding, A H, McLeod, D R A and Haworth, P F (2008). A conservation framework for golden eagles: implications for their conservation and management in Scotland. Scottish Natural Heritage Commissioned Report No.193 (ROAME No. F05AC306).

http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/publications/commissioned_reports/Report%20No193.pdf [accessed on 15 June 2012]

Figure 1 - National and Regional Raptor Conservation and Management Strategies set within the framework of national and international conservation planning activities.



Guidelines for Preparing National or Regional Raptor Conservation and Management Strategies

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A proposed format for National and Regional Strategies for Category 1 and, where appropriate, Category 2 species

The development of National and Regional Strategies should be aligned with the text of the UNEP/CMS Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors MoU) - <http://www.cms.int/species/raptors/index.htm> [accessed on 15 June 2012]

Front Cover

- Title: National or Regional Raptor Conservation and Management Strategy of [country or region name]
- Image illustration.
- Logos of compilers, contributors and sponsors.
- Place and date of publishing.

Inside Front Cover

- Title of the Strategy.
- Name of the institution that commissioned the Strategy, together with any other sponsors that supported the planning process.
- Compiler(s).
- List of Contributors: contributors should be listed alphabetically by country. For each contributor indicate organisation or affiliation, as appropriate.
- Editors.
- Translators.
- Recommended citation including ISBN.

Acknowledgement

Credit can be given to those people and organisations that are not listed among the compilers and contributors and did not have a direct hand in producing the Strategy, but may have contributed funding, support, encouragement or any technical assistance to the compiler(s).

List of Abbreviations

List the Abbreviations used throughout the text in alphabetical order.

Table of Contents

List the main and sub-titles (second- or third- level titles, etc.). Preferably use a maximum of three-digit multi-level numbering. Indicate page numbers where the titles appear.

List of Tables

List Tables in the order in which they appear. Indicate page numbers.

List of Figures

List Figures in the order in which they appear. Indicate page numbers.

Executive Summary

The Executive Summary should be a clear, succinct, non-technical version of the Strategy. It should aim to reflect all relevant facts in a concise form. It should not exceed two pages in length, and should not contain References, Tables, Figures or Abbreviations.

The summary should include sufficient detail to allow the reader to quickly understand what needs to be done, including the priority activities, the anticipated outcomes and benefits, and what resources are required to implement the Action Plan defined within the Raptors MoU, and to accomplish the objectives there in.

Key aspects for inclusion are:

- What is the broader context and aim of the Strategy?
- Geographical scope.
- An overview of the conservation and the legal status of species covered by the Strategy.
- Principal threats affecting the species.
- An overview of species, site and habitat priorities.
- Goal of the plan.
- Objectives and top priority actions.
- Guiding principles of the Strategy (e.g. the importance of regular co-operation between stakeholders).

1. Introduction to the Strategy

Provide an overview about the background, overall goal and objectives of the Strategy.

Background

The following questions are suggested to be answered in the Introduction:

- Who is coordinating efforts to plan and implement the Strategy?
- What has been accomplished in the past?
- How was the Strategy developed?

SWOT assessment

Provide a brief assessment of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats regarding the preparation and implementation of the Strategy.

Goal and objectives of the Strategy

Define the overall goal and list objectives through which the goal can be achieved.

2. General information (Table 1)

Date of entry into force of the CMS, Raptors MoU in [country or countries]:	[country 1 - year] [country 2 - year] [country 3 - year]
Period covered by the Strategy:	[year - year]
Territory to which the strategy applies:	[country name1] [country name2] [country name3]
Designated National or Regional Contact Point: Full name of the institution: Title, First Name, Surname: Mailing address: Telephone: Fax: E-mail:	Appointment to the CMS Scientific Council: Full name of the institution: Title, First Name, Surname: Mailing address: Telephone: Fax: E-mail:
National Contributor 1: Full name of the institution: Title, First Name, Surname: Position: Mailing address: Telephone: Fax: E-mail:	National Contributor 2: Full name of the institution: Title, First Name, Surname: Position: Mailing address: Telephone: Fax: E-mail:
National Contributor 3: Full name of the institution: Title, First Name, Surname: Position: Mailing address: Telephone: Fax: E-mail:	National Contributor 4: Full name of the institution: Title, First Name, Surname: Position: Mailing address: Telephone: Fax: E-mail:
Regional contributors (only in Regional Strategies)	[country 1 – List of contributors] [country 2 – List of contributors]
Date of Completion (and submission to the ICU of the Raptors MoU)	

3. Biological Assessment – A National or Regional overview

This section provides a concise overview of the strategic planning environment. Summarized information from the most relevant and authoritative sources should be used to describe clearly the key characteristics of current conditions and circumstances. Extensive detail should, however, be avoided and graphic presentation should be used wherever possible.

3.1 National or Regional factsheet

- Provide a concise overview of the location, geographic coordinates, area, climate, terrain, elevation extremes, main natural resources, land use, current environmental issues, geography of the country or region to which the Strategy applies.
- Include a **Map** showing the location of important sites listed in
- **Table 3:** in Annex I (see Section 9 – below for a list of suggested Annexes) within the administrative area covered by the Strategy. Country or countries in which the Strategy applies should be indicated, for example, with colour/shading.

3.2 Relevant Conventions/Agreements; National policy instruments (e.g. National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy), Single Species Action Plans, etc.

- List relevant Conventions/Agreements, National policy instruments and Single Species Action Plans. Indicated the year of endorsement or publication.
- Explain how the National or Regional strategy fits into existing conservation planning activities covering migratory raptors?

3.3 Monitoring of raptor populations

- Provide a concise summary of National or Regional data collection (key institutions, individuals, networks, databases, information flow, etc.)

3.4 Inventory of Species – Birds of Prey

- Include a concise summary of the raptor species occurring within the National or Regional boundary.
- Summarise their status (**Table 2** in Annex I)
 - Priority species (Raptors MoU Category 1 and National ‘flagship’ species in **Table 2**)
 - Other species (Category 2 species in **Table 2**)

3.5 Inventory of Sites - important sites for migratory birds of prey

- Prepare a concise summary of key sites.
- Important Sites (
 - **Table 3:** - **Table 4:** should include a list of important sites under National protection, Important Bird Areas and raptor species occurring within them).
 - Priority sites (key sites for the priority species in **Table 3**)
 - Other important sites (listed in **Tables 3 and 4**)

3.6 Inventory of Habitats - important sites for migratory birds of prey

- Prepare a concise summary of key habitats.
- Important habitats (**Table 5:** in Annex I should include a list of important habitats and the raptor species occurring within them).
 - Priority habitats (highlight key habitats for the priority species in **Table 5**)
 - Other important habitats (listed under Priority Habitats in **Table 5**)

3.7 Threat Assessment

- Prepare a concise summary of threats covering the following areas:
 - Describe the threats and their impact on raptor populations.
 - List priority threats which are known (or have the realistic potential) to have significant e.g. population level impact on priority species.
 - List only threats which can be addressed by targeted conservation actions. Threats of a more global character (*e.g.* climate change, avian influenza and others) if important, should be mentioned in the threats overview paragraph.
 - Threats should be presented in **Table 6:** in Annex I in descending order of priority according to the magnitude of their impact on populations.
 - Common sense and best available information should guide the decision-making process when ranking threats. Ideally, threats should be ranked using a quantitative system describing the speed and the magnitude of the caused (likely) decline. However, if precise data on the threat magnitude are not readily available, a decision should be taken based on best available data and expert judgement. Ensuring that the ranking is consistent and correct in relative terms is the important point.
 - Threats often act in a synergistic way and may have a cumulative effect. If gaps in knowledge are likely to affect the understanding of the impact of threats, these should be reflected as research actions. A measure of the level of uncertainty involved with each threat should be indicated in its description.
- List of threats (**Table 6:** in Annex I with the list of treats and the species affected)
 - Priority threats (highlighting key threats by their severity to the majority of priority species in **Table 6:**)

3.8 Stakeholder Analysis

- Populate **Table 7:** in Annex I with the list of stakeholders, their attitude towards raptors and their potential shared interest with nature conservation.
- Include a concise summary of stakeholders and their attitudes.
- List of stakeholders, their attitude toward raptors and their potential shared interests with nature conservation (**Table 7**)
 - Strategic stakeholders

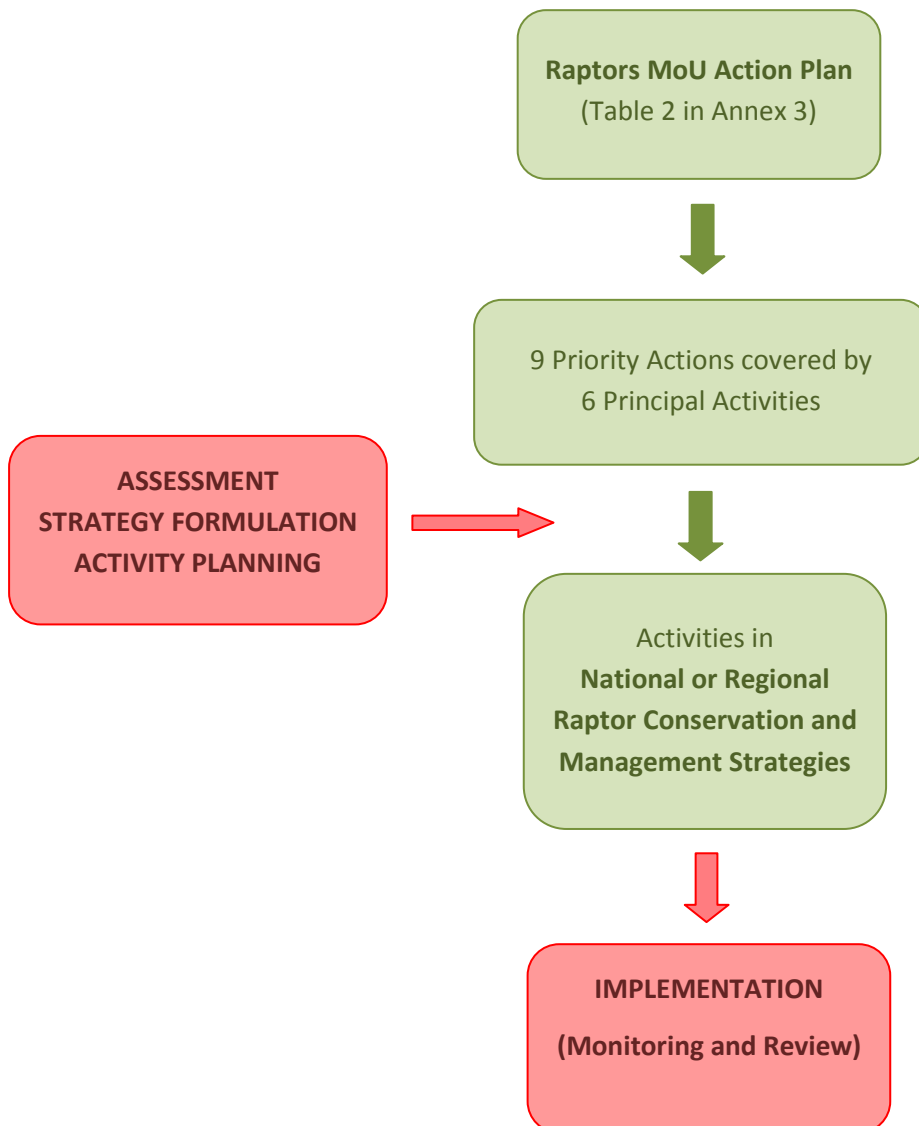
- Other important stakeholders

4. Conservation Approach - proposed National or Regional activities relevant to the Raptors MoU

The Action Plan to the Raptors MoU includes nine Priority Actions covered by six principal activities (Table 2 of the Action Plan) aimed at achieving the overall goal and objectives of the Raptors MoU (Paragraph 4 of the Action Plan, **Figure 2**).

Ultimately, National or Regional activities should focus on implementation of the six principal activities defined in Table 2 of the Action Plan. However, the strategic planning process is flexible, so Signatories may plan and implement additional activities to those provided for under the Raptors MoU.

Figure 2 – Process Flow of Strategy Development



National or Regional Strategies should contain activities which follow a threat-driven, multi-species approach. For each activity, species affected by the same threat but with similar conservation requirements should be grouped, including a clear indication of those species that will benefit from the activity.

In accordance with Paragraph 5.2 of the Action Plan of the Raptors MoU, National activities should be assigned priority levels as in Table 2 of the Action Plan.

Note that the timescales given in paragraph 5.3 of the Action Plan run from the date on which the Raptors MoU became effective for each Signatory (Table 1 of this Guidelines document).

The description of National or Regional activities should not exceed 1 or 2 pages in length. The following example shows the proposed outline template of an activity with pre-defined headings:

Example activity description:

Activity 4.1.4: Improve the legal basis to prevent and mitigate the effect of power lines on birds of prey and owl populations.

Priority level: Second

Relevant Raptors MoU Activity: “1.4 Review relevant legislation and take steps where possible to make sure that it requires all new power lines to be designed to avoid bird of prey electrocution”

Threat assessment:

Impact on raptor populations: Significant cumulative mortality due to electrocution and collision of raptors with power lines, which can lead to local or regional population decline in some species.

Species affected:

Category 1 species

Egyptian Vulture, Red-footed Falcon, Saker Falcon, Red Kite and Eastern Imperial Eagle.

Category 2 species

Lanner Falcon, Common Kestrel, Osprey, Black Kite, White-tailed Eagle, Short-toed Snake-eagle, Levant Sparrowhawk, Long-legged Buzzard, Steppe Eagle and Golden Eagle

Threat description: In spite of the wide international and national recognition of the significant effect of power lines on birds of prey and owls there are no provisions in current national legislation that oblige electric utility companies to use bird-friendly designs when establishing new overhead power lines or to mitigate the effects on birds on existing lines. At present, the application of bird-friendly structures depends upon the voluntary initiatives of electricity utility companies. However, the extent and quality of the measures applied are unknown due to the lack of pre- and post-mitigation monitoring.

Objectives:

Strategic objective: Specific legal provisions are endorsed ensuring that priority power lines in terms of bird conservation/distribution and the most dangerous pole types in all lines are retrofitted/changed to bird-friendly designs by 2020.

Ideal objective: Legal provisions ensure that all national power lines are safe for birds by 2050.

Minimum objective: Establish the appropriate national legal basis to ensure that only bird-safe designs are used for all new and fully reconstructed power lines.

Actions:

1. Set up a group of specialists to review current national legislation relating birds/power line interactions.
2. Promote co-operation between State, non-Governmental conservation organisations and electric utility companies in order to understand stakeholder needs and to draft amendments to existing legal instruments, or to draft new legal instruments as necessary.
3. Consider the following points during preparation of the draft:
 - new and fully reconstructed lines should be bird-safe by design;
 - the use of electric pole designs hazardous to birds should be banned;
 - public and non-Governmental conservation organisations should be involved in the process of designing new, bird-safe poles at an early stage;
 - a timescale for mitigating existing power lines should be defined with key stakeholders.
4. Set spatial priorities concerning the remediation of existing electric grids to facilitate the effective implementation of the legal provisions.

Target areas of measures: Countrywide, with a special focus on sites listed in **Tables 3** and **4** of this Strategy.

Targets (progress monitoring indicators):

- Host regular meetings of key stakeholders and interested parties.
- Review current national legislation.
- Draft legislative amendments or a new legal instrument.
- Introduce and progress revised or new legislation through parliament.
- Widely publicise the new regulations, specifically amongst utility companies.
- Establish monitoring projects with non-Government conservation organisations.
- Review progress on an annual basis by hosting stakeholder meetings.

Important assumptions: The activity has strong support from both policy makers and the public.

Implementation plan:

Time schedule: Medium, 2010 - 2015

Estimated budget: 30,000 EUR

Co-ordinating Partner: Ministry of Environment

Contributing Partners: Policy makers, State and civil conservation organisations, energy and electric utility companies, experts and related businesses.

Based on the Action Plan in the Raptors MoU the following six principal Activities should be covered and implemented through National or Regional Strategies (Activities at the National or Regional levels should be listed in **Annex III** - and their time-frame presented in **Annex III** -):

4.1 Improvement of legal protection

- Prepare a concise summary of past and current efforts to improve legal protection for birds of prey.

List the main National or Regional legal instruments covering the protection of raptors and the conservation of main habitats and sites.

Activity 4.1.1. Review relevant legislation and take steps where possible to make sure that it protects all birds of prey from all forms of a) deliberate killing, b) deliberate disturbance at nest sites and communal roost sites (particularly in wintering grounds) where this is considered detrimental to the conservation of the species; and c) egg-collection and taking from the wild. Unless this is authorised by the competent body and only where the action is sustainable and not detrimental to the conservation status of the species concerned.

Activity 4.1.2. Review relevant legislation and take steps where possible to ban the use of exposed poison baits for predator control and those chemicals where they have been shown to cause significant avian mortalities.

Activity 4.1.3. Review relevant legislation and take steps where possible to make sure that it requires all new power lines to be designed to avoid bird of prey electrocution.

Activity 4.1.4. Strengthen the application of legal protection, and reporting of persecution, for birds of prey by ensuring appropriate penalties, training law enforcement authorities, and raising public awareness to boost surveillance and reporting of illegal activities.

Activity 4.1.5. Identify gaps in existing Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) where bird of prey protection and conservation can be improved and draw these to the attention of the relevant Secretariat and other Parties.

(...)

4.2 Protect and/or manage important sites and flyways

- Prepare a concise summary of past and current efforts to protect and/or manage important sites and flyways.

Activity 4.2.1. Designate nationally and internationally important sites (including those listed in Table 3 of the Raptors MoU, as protected areas with management plans or as appropriately managed sites taking bird of prey conservation requirements into account.

Activity 4.2.2. Undertake Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) in accordance with the CBD guidelines (CBD Decision VI/7A and any subsequent amendments) and CMS Resolution 7.2 on Impact Assessment and Migratory Species for any projects potentially adversely impacting sites listed in Table 3 of the Raptors MoU, and any other sites holding significant populations of Category 1 and 2 species.

Activity 4.2.3. Conduct risk analysis at important sites (including those listed in Table 3 of the Raptors MoU, to identify and address actual or potential causes of significant incidental mortality from human causes (including fire, laying poisons, pesticide use, power lines, wind turbines).

Activity 4.2.4. Conduct Strategic Environmental Assessments of planned significant infrastructure developments within major flyways to identify key risk areas.

(...)

4.3 Habitat conservation and sustainable management

- Prepare a concise summary of past and current efforts to conserve habitats and manage natural resources sustainably.

Activity 4.3.1. Survey, maintain and restore natural vegetation cover in former habitats (especially grasslands) in the range of globally threatened species.

Activity 4.3.2. Where feasible, take necessary actions to ensure that existing power lines that pose the greatest risk to birds of prey are modified to avoid bird of prey electrocution.

Activity 4.3.3. Endeavour to facilitate feeding opportunities for necrophagous birds of prey as far as it is possible taking into account sanitary considerations.

Activity 4.3.4. Taking into account the needs of bird of prey conservation in sectors and related policies such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries, industries, tourism, energy, chemicals and pesticides.

(...)

4.4 Raise awareness of problems faced by raptors and measures needed to conserve them

- Prepare a concise summary of past and current efforts to raise awareness of problems faced by birds of prey and measures needed to conserve them.

Activity 4.4.1. Develop a programme of public awareness, using electronic and print media to publicise the migrations undertaken by birds of prey, their current status, the threats to them and actions, including review of superstitions about them that can be taken to conserve them.

- Activity 4.4.2. Develop an awareness programme within forestry, agriculture, fisheries, energy, industry, transport and other relevant sectors to inform decision makers of the current status of birds of prey, the threats to them and the spectral actions that can be taken to conserve them.
- Activity 4.4.3. Develop a school educational programme and teaching resources to inform school children of the migrations undertaken by birds of prey, their current status, the threats to them and actions that can be taken to conserve them.
- Activity 4.4.4. Establish information notices and provide leaflets at bottleneck sites informing people of their importance for birds of prey and the measures that they can take to conserve them.
- Activity 4.4.5. Organise sub-regional and national training workshops to improve skills in the monitoring of birds of prey.
- Activity 4.4.6. Educate and raise awareness of local communities to the importance of birds of prey, and the need to monitor and protect them.
- (...)

4.5 Monitor bird of prey populations, carry out conservation research and take appropriate remedial measures

- Prepare a concise summary of past and current efforts to monitor bird of prey populations, carry out conservation research and take appropriate remedial measures.
- Activity 4.5.1. Establish flyway-scale monitoring networks comprising a representative range of sites where systematic and coordinated monitoring of breeding populations, reproductive success and migration numbers (spring and autumn) can be undertaken.
- Activity 4.5.2. Design and undertake a coordinated monitoring programme and develop monitoring protocols based on the monitoring network established under 4. 5.1.
- Activity 4.5.3. Assess and then address the impacts of habitat loss on breeding, passage and wintering populations of birds of prey, and identify required measures to maintain Favourable Conservation Status.
- Activity 4.5.4. Assess and then address the impacts of the use of toxic chemicals, including heavy metals (for example lead in shot pellets), on breeding, passage and wintering populations of birds of prey, and their survival, identify and then implement appropriate measures to assist in achieving and maintaining Favourable Conservation Status.
- Activity 4.5.5. Monitor power line and wind farm impacts on birds of prey, including through analysis of existing data such as ringing data.

- Activity 4.5.6. Undertake research into the desirability of re-introducing birds of prey, and implement appropriate conservation programmes (including those involving captive breeding), where this is shown to improve their conservation status in the wild, and where these are in accord with IUCN guidelines.
 - Activity 4.5.7. Seek to promote appropriate programmes of captive breeding so as to alleviate the pressure of wild harvests on populations of birds of prey.
 - Activity 4.5.8. Assess the scale of harvests so as to evaluate the implications for the populations concerned.
 - Activity 4.5.9. Undertake relevant surveillance for diseases which may pose a threat to birds of prey populations, so as to inform conservation and management responses.
 - Activity 4.5.10. Initiate collaborative research into the effects of climate change on birds of prey and their habitats, and implement appropriate adaptation measures.
- (...)

4.6 Supporting measures

- Prepare a concise summary of supporting measures to be taken.
 - Activity 4.6.1. Prepare National, Regional or Sub-Regional strategies, or equivalent documents, for birds of prey (taking into account the need for collaborative trans-boundary measures with adjacent Signatory States).
 - Activity 4.6.2. Prepare 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.
 - Activity 4.6.3. Improve international cooperation through organising conferences, seminars and workshops concerning monitoring, scientific research and conservation activities.
- (...)

5. Existing and potential sources of funding

Prepare a list of existing and potential international and national sources of funding.

6. Conclusions

Prepare a summary of conclusions about the present situation.

List any constraints or limitations that could have an impact on the implementation of the Strategy. Examples of such constraints could be the time, people, and other resources available,

access to certain information, and external factors (e.g., changes in priorities by higher authorities).

7. Further recommendations

Future needs

Give a brief summary about future needs that are necessary to the successful and effective implementation of the Strategy.

List key gaps in knowledge in **Table 8:**, Annex I.

8. References

The reference list, in alphabetical order, should contain only the key documents used directly to develop the Strategy or referred to in it, not general literature. Not all information needed for the Strategy is officially published. In such cases compilers should judge the available information carefully and responsibly. Information stored in institutional databases should also be included in the list of references, with an indication of the source and date of access to the database.

The format for presenting the list of references should follow this example:

European Commission (2007) Guidance document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC. Brussels, Belgium.

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/art6/guidance_art6_4_en.pdf [accessed on dd/mm/yy]

9. Annexes

Annex I

Table 2	Status of birds of prey species occurring in [country or region name]
Table 3	List of key sites for Category 1 and National priority species
Table 4	List of key sites for Category 2 species
Table 5	List of important habitats for Category 1, National priority and Category 2 species
Table 6	List of threats having potential or known impact on the population of Category 1, National priority and Category 2 species
Table 7	List of stakeholders, their attitude towards raptors and their potential shared interests with nature conservation
Table 8	Identified key gaps in knowledge

Annex II

The list of proposed National or Regional Activities with reference to the Principal Activities summarized in Table 2 of the Action Plan to the MoU.

Annex III

Time-frame for National or Regional Activities

Table 2: Status of birds of prey species occurring in [country or region name]

National name/ English name	Scientific name	National or Regional legal status	National or Regional cons. status ¹	National or Regional status ²	Breeding population size (min-max) ³	Migration numbers (min-max) ⁴	National or Regional trend ⁵	Trend period ⁶	Is the species monitored? ⁷	National or Regional Conservation /Action Plan ⁸
Raptors MoU, Category 1 species (Globally threatened and Near Threatened species according to the latest IUCN Red List)										
<i>Eastern Imperial Eagle</i>	<i>Aquila heliaca</i>	<i>strictly protected</i>	<i>U</i>	<i>RB</i>	<i>30 – 35 pairs (G)</i>	<i>200 -300 (M)</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>2000 - 2010</i>	<i>Not annually but regularly</i>	<i>Yes (2006)</i>
[insert species]										
National or Regional priority or 'flagship' species										
<i>Montagu's Harrier</i>	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	<i>strictly protected</i>	<i>U</i>	<i>RB</i>	<i>20 – 50 pairs (M)</i>	<i>500-1500 (M)</i>	<i>MD</i>	<i>2000 - 2010</i>	<i>Annually</i>	<i>Yes (2001)</i>
[insert species]										
Raptors MoU, Category 2 species (species considered to have Unfavourable Conservation Status at regional level within a Range State)										
<i>Lanner Falcon</i>	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>	<i>strictly protected</i>	<i>U</i>	<i>RB</i>	<i>1-3 pairs (M)</i>	<i>? (U)</i>	<i>LD</i>	<i>1995 - 2005</i>	<i>Annually</i>	<i>No</i>
[insert species]										

¹ National conservation status: **F** - Favourable, **U** - Unfavourable

² National or Regional status: **RB**-Regular breeder, **OB** - Occasional breeder, **RNB** - Resident non-breeder, **WV** - Winter visitor, **SV** - Summer visitor, **PM** - Passage migrant, **V** – Vagrant, **E** - Extinct

³ Breeding population size: e.g. 2,000 – 5,000 Specify if pairs or individuals: **P** – pairs, **I** – individuals

Please indicate the quality of data as **Good (G)** = Reliable quantitative data available (eg atlas, survey or monitoring data) for the whole period and country, **Medium (M)** = generally well known, but only poor or incomplete quantitative data available, **Poor (P)** = Poorly known with no quantitative data available, **Unknown (U)** = information on quality not available.

⁴ Migration numbers: *number of individuals*. Please indicate the quality of data as **Good (G)**, **Medium (M)**, **Poor (P)**, **Unknown (U)**

⁵ National or Regional breeding population trend in the last 10 years (or three generations). If possible, qualify the trend using the following categories:

LD - Large decline (>=30%), **MD** - Moderate decline (10-29%), **SD** - Small decline (0-9%), **S** - Stable (<10% decline and <10% increase), **SI** - Small increase (0-9%), **MI** - Moderate increase (10-29%), **LI** - Large increase (>=30%), **U** - Unknown (insufficient data).

For some species, actual percentage values may not be known. Use of categories should be based on the best available data or expert judgement.

⁶ Trend period: e.g. 2000 – 2010

⁷ Is the species monitored?: **Yes** (if yes please specify: *Annually - More than once a year – Not annually but regularly - Occasionally*)

⁸ National or Regional Conservation/Action Plan: **Yes** (if yes please indicate the **year of publication**) - **No**

Table 3: List of key sites for Category 1 and National or Regional priority (or ‘flagship’) species

Site ID	Site name	Designated as ¹ (Area Type & Code)	Category 1 species										National or Regional priority (or ‘flagship’) species			
			<i>Aquila heliaca</i>	<i>Aquila clanga</i>	<i>Circus macrourus</i>	[insert species]	[insert species]	[insert species]	[insert species]	[insert species]	[insert species]	[insert species]	[insert species]	[insert species]	[insert species]	[insert species]
Priority sites																
BG 1	Sakar	IBA, (SPA - BG0002021)	br	br	mr											
BG 2	Atanasovo Lake	IBA, (SPA - BG0000270)	sa	sa	sa											
	[insert site]															
	[insert site]															
Other important sites																
	[insert site]															
	[insert site]															
	[insert site]															
	[insert site]															

¹ For example Important Bird Area (IBA), Ramsar site, Man and Biosphere site (MaB), Special Protection Area (SPA) in the EU, Raptor Watch Global Directory sites (RWGD)

² Please select an Area Type and enter it into the Table under the species column:

br – breeding area, **mr** – migration route, **mb** – migration bottleneck, **sa** – staging area (winter, summer), **ra** – roosting area, **cs** – congregation site, **da** – dispersal area for non-territorial individuals

Table 4: List of key sites for Category 2 species

Site ID	Site name	Designated as ¹ (Area Type & Code)	Category 2 species															
			<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	<i>Aquila pomarina</i>	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	[insert species]	[insert species]	[insert species]	[insert species]	[insert species]	[insert species]	[insert species]	[insert species]	[insert species]		
BG 1	Sakar	IBA, (SPA - BG0002021)	br	br	br	br	sa											
BG 2	Atanasovo Lake	IBA, (SPA - BG0000270)	sa	sa	sa	sa	sa											
	[insert site]																	
	[insert site]																	
	[insert site]																	
	[insert site]																	
	[insert site]																	
	[insert site]																	
	[insert site]																	

¹ For example Important Bird Area (IBA), Ramsar site, Man and Biosphere site (MaB), Special Protection Area (SPA) in the EU, Raptor Watch Global Directory sites (RWGD)

² Please select an Area Type and enter it into the Table under the species column:

br – breeding area, **mr** – migration route, **mb** – migration bottleneck, **sa** – staging area (winter, summer), **ra** – roosting area, **cs** – congregation site, **da** – dispersal area for non-territorial individuals

Table 5: List of Important Habitats for Category 1, National/Regional priority & Category 2 species

National name/ English name	Scientific name	Important Habitat Types								
		<i>Temperate Forest</i>	<i>Temperate Grasslands</i>	<i>Arable Land</i>	[insert habitat type]	[insert habitat type]	[insert habitat type]	[insert habitat type]	[insert habitat type]	[insert habitat type]
Category 1 and National or Regional priority (or ‘flagship’) species										
<i>Eastern Imperial Eagle</i>	<i>Aquila heliaca</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>H</i>						
<i>Montagu’s Harrier</i>	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>H</i>						
[insert species]										
[insert species]										
[insert species]										
Category 2 species										
<i>Lanner Falcon</i>	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>H</i>						
[insert species]										
[insert species]										
[insert species]										
[insert species]										

For the detailed IUCN Habitat Classification Scheme (Version 3.0) visit IUCN website

<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes/habitats-classification-scheme-ver3>

Main habitat types (Please use sub-types if appropriate):

- 1 Forest
- 2 Savanna
- 3 Shrubland
- 4 Grassland
- 5 Wetlands (inland)
- 6 Rocky Areas [e.g. inland cliffs, mountain peaks]
- 7 Caves and Subterranean Habitats (non-aquatic)
- 8 Desert
- 9 Marine Neritic (Submergent Nearshore Continental Shelf or Oceanic Island)
- 10 Marine Oceanic
- 11 Marine Deep Benthic
- 12 Marine Intertidal
- 13 Marine Coastal/Supratidal
- 14 Artificial - Terrestrial
- 15 Artificial - Aquatic
- 16 Introduced Vegetation
- 17 Other
- 18 Unknown

Importance:

- C** – Critical
- H** - High
- M** – Medium
- Low** - Low
- L** - Local

Table 6: List of Threats¹ exerting known or potential impacts² upon the populations of Category 1, National or Regional priority (or ‘flagship’) and Category 2 species

National name/ English name	Scientific name	Types of Threat ¹									
		Hunting and persecution	Electrocution on electric poles	Egg-collecting and taking of young, exploitation	[insert Threat Type]	[insert Threat Type]	[insert Threat Type]	[insert Threat Type]	[insert Threat Type]	[insert Threat Type]	[insert Threat Type]
Category 1 and National or Regional priority (or ‘flagship’) species											
Eastern Imperial Eagle	<i>Aquila heliaca</i>	H	H	L							
[species]											
[species]											
Category 2 species											
Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>	H	H	H							
[species]											
[species]											

¹ **Please select Threat Types from the list below:**

- 1 Agriculture (intensification, abandonment, expansion)
- 2 Hunting and persecution (trapping, poisoning, shooting)
- 3 Wetland drainage and land reclamation
- 4 Human disturbance (intentional or unintentional)
- 5 Pesticides & pollution (direct or indirect effects)
- 6 Forestry (intensification, deforestation, selective logging)
- 7 Predation
- 8 Forest and tree loss and degradation
- 9 Hydrological change
- 10 Overgrazing
- 11 Human impact outside National or Regional boundary
- 12 Electrocution on electric poles
- 13 Climate change and extreme weather
- 14 Building and infrastructure development
- 15 Collision (windfarms, power lines, rail/road kills)
- 16 Loss of nest sites (e.g. in old buildings)
- 17 Egg-collecting and taking of young, exploitation
- 18 Competition for limited resources
- 19 Fire, including changes to existing burning regimes
- 20 Fisheries & aquaculture
- 21 Illegal trade
- 22 Natural events
- 23 Other

² **Please select the magnitude of impact and specify it under Threat Type column**

- C** - Critical: a factor causing or likely to cause very rapid declines and/or extinction;
H - High: a factor causing or likely to cause rapid decline leading to depletion;
M - Medium: a factor causing or likely to cause relatively slow, but significant, declines;
Low - Low: a factor causing or likely to cause fluctuations;
L - Local: a factor causing or likely to cause declines in small parts of the population;
U - Unknown: a factor that is likely to affect the species but the extent is unknown;
N - None: no effects likely;
DD - Data deficient: potential affects cannot be evaluated due to lack of knowledge.

Table 7: List of stakeholders, their attitude toward raptors and their potential shared interests with nature conservation

Stakeholders	Attitude towards raptors ¹	Potential shared interests with nature conservation
Strategic stakeholders		
<i>Hunters and game managers</i>	<i>Opponent</i>	<i>Habitat management beneficial for small game species and for alternative non-game prey species</i>
[insert stakeholder]		
[insert stakeholder]		
[insert stakeholder]		
[insert stakeholder]		
[insert stakeholder]		
Other important stakeholders		
[insert stakeholder]		
[insert stakeholder]		
[insert stakeholder]		
[insert stakeholder]		
[insert stakeholder]		
[insert stakeholder]		
[insert stakeholder]		

¹ **S** - Supporter, **MS** - Moderate Supporter, **N** - Neutral, **MO** - Moderate Opponent, **O** - Opponent

Table 8: Identified key gaps in existing knowledge

Knowledge gaps	Importance
e.g. Population (population size, trend, distribution, etc.)	
[insert knowledge gap]	
[insert knowledge gap]	
e.g. Population ecology (genetic structure and fragmentation, dispersal mechanisms, Population Viability Analyses, etc.)	
[insert knowledge gap]	
[insert knowledge gap]	
e.g. Productivity, mortality rates, survival rates	
[insert knowledge gap]	
[insert knowledge gap]	
e.g. Impact of threats	
[insert knowledge gap]	
[insert knowledge gap]	
e.g. Habitat use and selection	
[insert knowledge gap]	
[insert knowledge gap]	
e.g. Dispersal, migration and wintering	
[insert knowledge gap]	
[insert knowledge gap]	
e.g. Research and conservation methods	
[insert knowledge gap]	
[insert knowledge gap]	
e.g. Evaluation of the effectiveness of conservation activities	
[insert knowledge gap]	
[insert knowledge gap]	
e.g. Harvest & trade	
[insert knowledge gap]	
[insert knowledge gap]	

Importance:

- C** – Critical
- H** - High
- M** – Medium
- Low** - Low
- L** – Local

Annex II - List of proposed National or Regional Activities with reference to the Principal Activities summarized in Table 2 of the Raptors MoU Action Plan

Activity ID	Target	Activities	Principal Activities Reference ¹	Priority Level ²	Time Schedule ³	Organisations
4.1 Improvement of legal protection						
4.1.1						
4.1.2						
4.1.3						
4.2 Protect and/or manage important sites and flyways						
4.2.1						
4.2.2						
4.2.3						
4.3 Habitat conservation and sustainable management						
4.3.1						
4.3.2						
4.3.3						
4.4 Raise awareness of problems faced by birds of prey and measures needed to conserve them						
4.4.1						
4.4.2						
4.4.3						

Activity ID	Target	Activities	Principal Activities Reference ¹	Priority Level ²	Time Schedule ³	Organisations
4.5 Monitor bird of prey populations, carry out conservation research and take appropriate remedial measures						
4.5.1						
4.5.2						
4.5.3						
4.6 Supporting measures						
4.6.1						
4.6.2						
4.6.3						

¹ Activity Codes in Table 2 of the Raptors MoU

² **First** - an activity needed to prevent global extinction of a species.
Second - an activity needed to prevent or reverse population declines in any globally threatened or Near Threatened species, or the majority of other species with an Unfavourable Conservation Status.
Third - an activity needed to restore populations of a globally threatened or Near Threatened species, or to prevent population declines in any species with an Unfavourable Conservation Status.
Fourth - an activity needed to restore populations in any species with an Unfavourable Conservation Status, or to prevent population declines in any species with a Favourable Conservation Status

³ **Immediate** - an activity expected to be completed within two years from the date that the MoU has become effective for that Signatory;
Short term - an activity expected to be completed within three years from the date that the MoU has become effective for that Signatory;
Medium - an activity expected to be completed within five years from the date that the MoU has become effective for that Signatory;
Long term - an activity expected to be completed within seven years from the date that the MoU has become effective for that Signatory; and
Ongoing - an activity expected to be undertaken throughout the period that the MoU is effective for that Signatory.

Annex III - Time-frame for National or Regional Activities

Activity ID	Activity	Priority	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3				Year 4				Year 5							
			I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV				
	[insert activity]																									
	[insert activity]																									
	[insert activity]																									
	[insert activity]																									
	[insert activity]																									
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