



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY BIRDS OF PREY IN AFRICA AND EURASIA (RAPTORS MOU)

Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*) © Sergey Dereliev, www.dereliev-photography.com

Effective date & coverage

- Effective since 1 November 2008
- Covers 131 African-Eurasian Range States
- Covers 94 species of migratory birds of prey
- Activities guided by an Action Plan

Mission

- To improve and maintain the favourable conservation status of all migratory birds of prey in Africa and Eurasia

Action Plan objectives

- Halt & reverse population declines of globally Threatened and Near Threatened birds of prey
- Protect all species from unlawful killing & taking
- Enhance national, regional & international cooperation of conservation activities
- Improve scientific knowledge & understanding
- Encourage research into biology & ecology of migratory birds of prey
- Increase public awareness & promote active participation in conservation
- Identify & address key human-induced threats

The Raptors MOU in a nutshell

The Raptors MOU aims to promote internationally coordinated actions to reverse the decline and improve the conservation status of migratory birds of prey throughout the African-Eurasian region. An Action Plan agreed by Signatories and annexed to the MOU sets clear priorities and timescales to guide implementation of those conservation actions, representing a holistic framework that requires cooperation amongst governmental and non-governmental actors. A Technical Advisory Group provides expert advice to Signatories to support their implementation of the Action Plan. The secretariat functions of the MOU are performed by the Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MOU, which is based in the CMS Office - Abu Dhabi with the support of the the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi, on behalf of the Government of the United Arab Emirates.

Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey (Raptors)

Migratory raptors are a varied group of birds that includes vultures, eagles, falcons and owls, many of which are long-distance migrants that regularly cross geo-political borders. Critical components of biodiversity, raptors provide many ecosystem services that directly benefit people. For example, falcons eat millions of insects which can threaten agricultural crops; and vultures and other raptors consume animal carcasses, contributing to the prevention of disease spreading. Raptors also serve as indicators of ecosystem health and have important cultural value. Despite this, the conservation status of most migratory raptors in Africa and Eurasia is declining, primarily due to human activities.

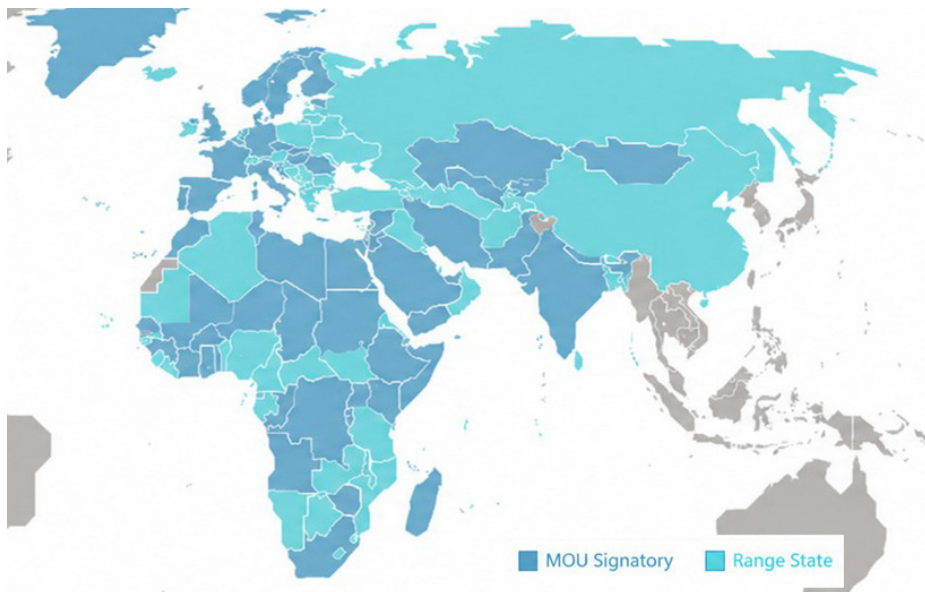
Populations are suffering from habitat fragmentation and destruction due to human development; intensification of agriculture and other land-use practices; electrocution and collision with energy infrastructure; shooting,

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY BIRDS OF PREY IN AFRICA AND EURASIA (RAPTORS MOU)

poisoning and trapping, including for trade; and reduced breeding success due to poisoning and other contamination, including by pesticides and heavy metals.

These combined threats have led to a decline in population sizes, the contraction of species' geographic ranges, and the loss of valuable ecosystem services that contribute to human well-being. Concerted and coordinated international action across the migratory range is required to address these pressures and to reinstate and maintain healthy populations of migratory birds of prey.

The Coordinating Unit strives to support Signatories in collaborating and coordinating a full range of conservation actions to increase the effectiveness of the Raptors MOU. Working together to develop international partnerships is necessary to tackle the many threats that migratory birds of prey face.



Map of Raptors MOU Signatories and Range States (as of October 2026)



Photos: Pallid Harrier (*Circus macrourus*) © Andras Kovacs and Nick P. Williams, www.raptorimages.hu; Imperial Eagle (*Aquila heliaca*) © Andras Kovacs; Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*) © Michele Mendi

Key Achievements

- Guidelines for Preparing Raptor Conservation Strategies
- Saker Falcon Global Action Plan
- Egyptian Vulture Flyway Action Plan
- Multi-species Action Plan to Conserve African-Eurasian Vultures
- Cinereous Vulture Flyway Action Plan
- International Single Species Action Plan for the Sooty Falcon

The Raptors MOU and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

The Raptors MOU contributes to:

- SDG1- No Poverty • SDG2-Zero Hunger • SDG8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth • SDG9 - Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure • SDG12- Responsible Production and Consumption • SDG13 - Climate Action • SDG15 - Life on Land • SDG17 - Partnerships for the Goals

Contact



Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MOU
CMS Office - Abu Dhabi
United Nations Environment Programme
Abu Dhabi
United Arab Emirates
E-mail: cmsoffice.ae@cms.int
www.cms.int/raptors

For more Fact Sheets please visit: <http://www.cms.int/en/publications/factsheets>