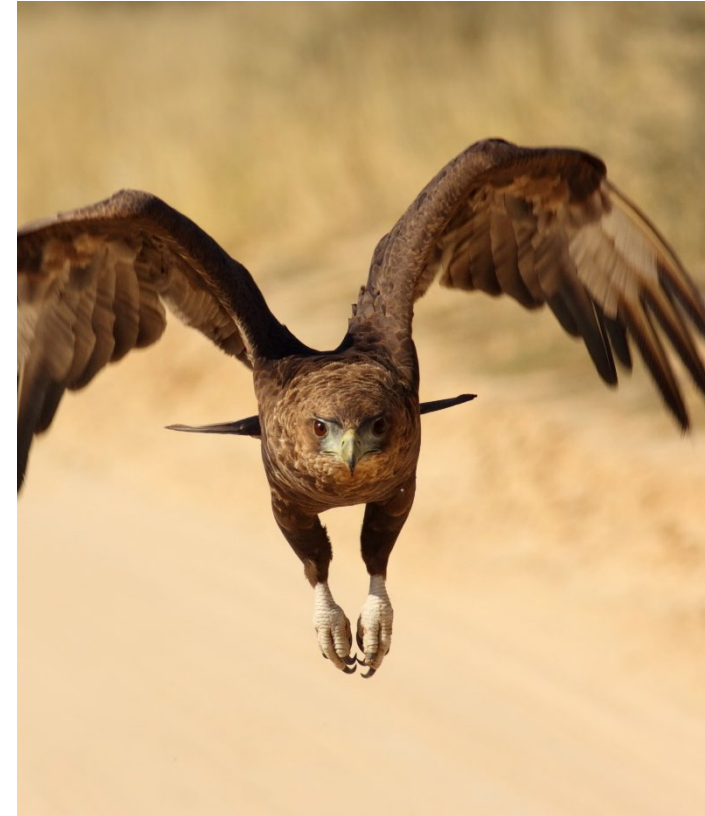




Meeting of the Range States of the Central Asian Flyway

2-4 May 2023, New Delhi, India





Raptors MOU and Central Asian Flyway

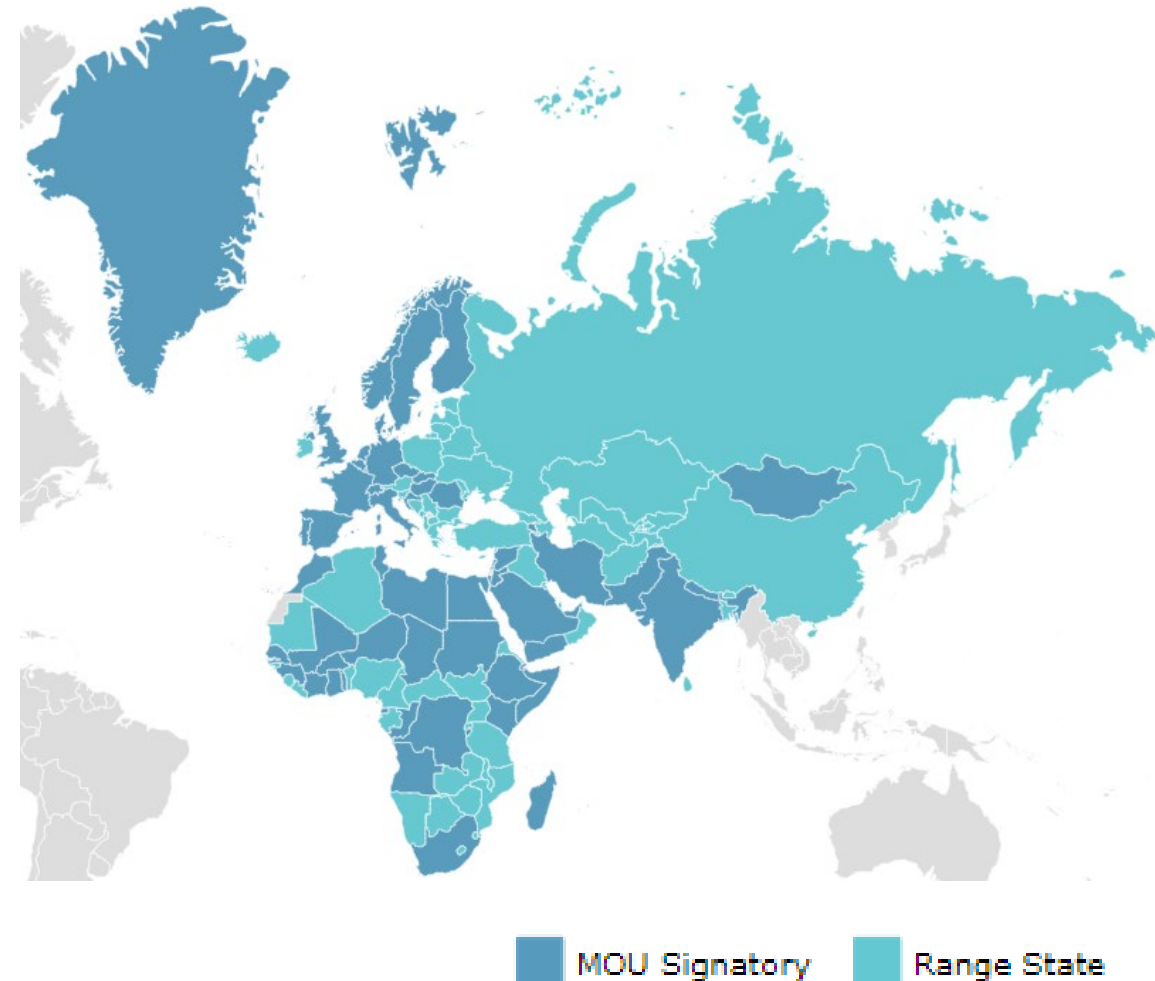


Umberto Gallo-Orsi
Head, Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MOU



Memorandum of Understanding on the conservation of migratory birds of prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors MOU)

- Multilateral agreement under CMS
- Entered into effect 1 Nov 2008
- 131 range states
- 93 species listed
- List of Internationally Important sites
- Action Plan – timescale, targets
- Co-ordinating Unit (Abu Dhabi)



Structure and governance

- 61 Signatories
- Meeting of the Signatories
- 5 Cooperating Partners
- Co-ordinating Unit
- Technical Advisory Group
- Task Forces (Saker Falcon)
- Working Groups (Vultures, Sooty Falcon, NSAIDs)

White-tailed Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*



Main provisions



Cinereous Vulture *Aegypius monachus*

- National or Regional Strategies
- Action Plans – species or groups
- Full legal protection of species and sites
- Minimize impacts of key threats:
 - power grids (electrocution & collision)
 - direct and indirect poisoning
 - illegal shooting and trapping
- Awareness raising and publicity
- Capacity-building activities

Conservation priorities

	Raptors MOU	CAF
Category 1 – Globally threatened and Near Threatened species according to the IUCN Red List	27	15
Category 2 – Species considered to have Unfavourable Conservation Status at a regional level	27	22
Category 3 - all other migratory species of raptors	39	25
List of internationally Important sites	135 7360	ca. 40 ca. 1064

CAF-geographical relevant initiatives

Saker Falcon (*Falco cherrug*)

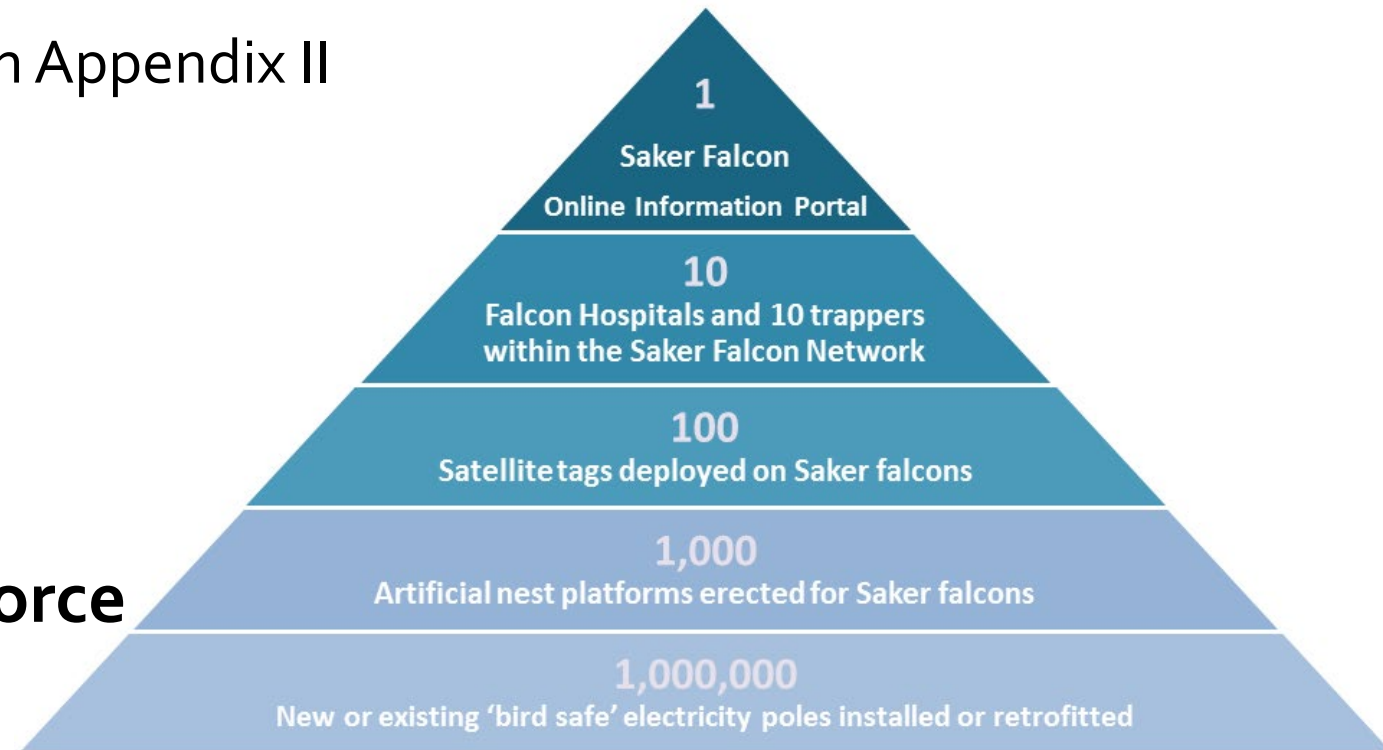
IUCN: Endangered

CMS: Appendix I. Mongolian population Appendix II

Raptors MOU: Category 1

- Electrocution
- Trapping and trade

Saker Falcon Task Force



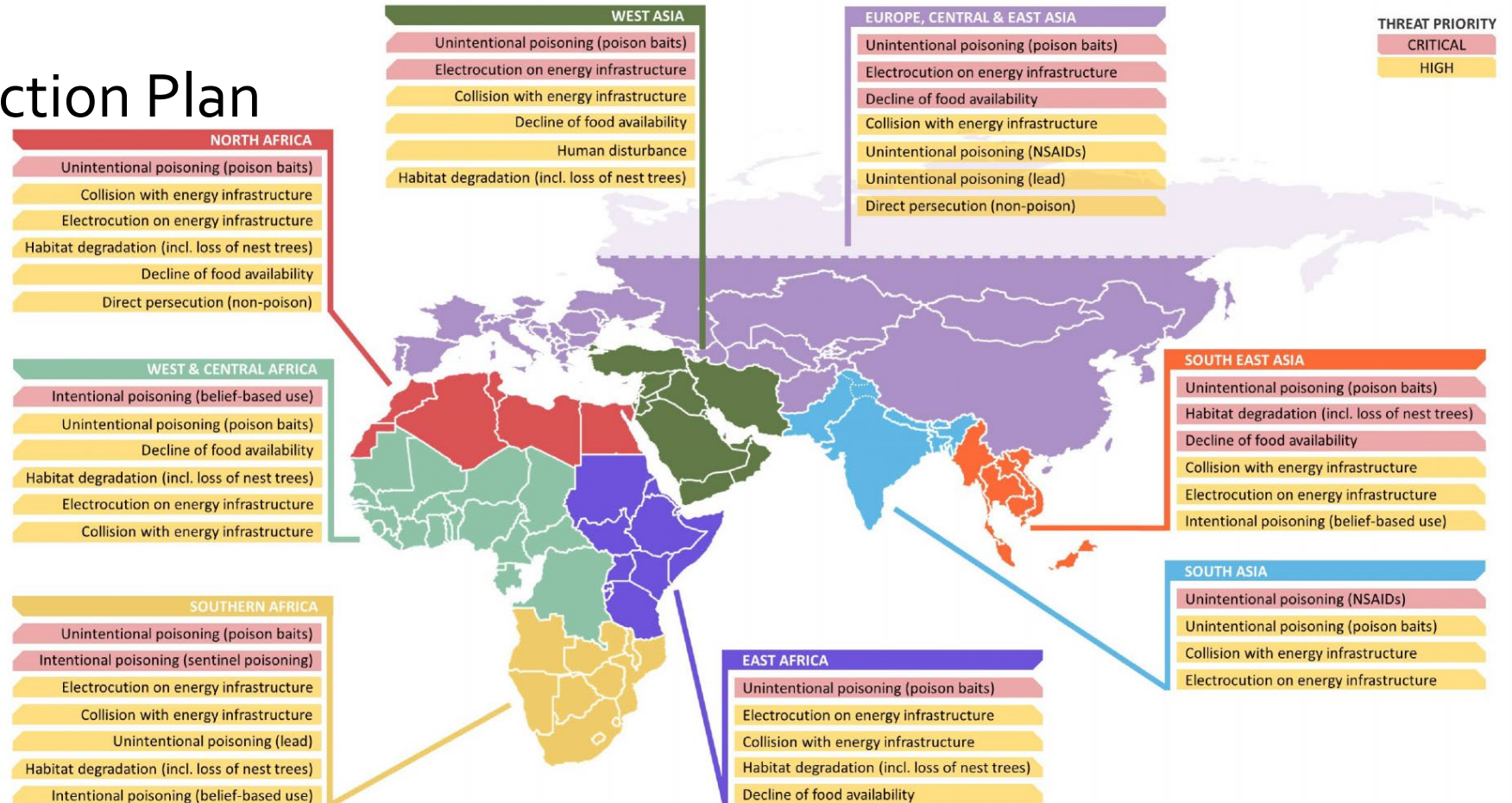
CAF-geographical relevant initiatives



Vultures

Vulture Multi-species Action Plan

- 15 Species
- 128 Countries
- 11 Flagship projects





THE THREAT OF VETERINARY DRUGS TO RAPTORS

White-rumped & slender-billed vultures are among the most seriously affected vultures by NSAIDs. Photo: © Phaerun Sum

BACKGROUND SUMMARY

A group of common non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) used to treat livestock are known to be toxic to various scavenging raptor species, causing catastrophic declines in vulture populations of Asia.

These NSAIDs are toxic to all eight species of vulture of the genus *Gyps*, to several other vulture species, and to eagles of the genus *Aquila*.

Most licensed NSAIDs are currently untested for impacts on raptors.

All 15 migratory African-Eurasian vulture species are listed in CMS Appendix I and/or II, and most are globally threatened.

Safe alternative drugs are available for livestock treatment and urgent action is needed to withdraw toxic NSAIDs from veterinary use and mitigate risks to raptors.

What are Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs)?

NSAIDs are commonly used in human and veterinary medicine, to relieve pain and to reduce inflammation or fever. There are at least 24 NSAIDs, of which the most well-known are **diclofenac**, **aspirin**, and **paracetamol**. When used in veterinary practice, some of these NSAIDs pose a serious threat to vultures and other raptor species.

Facts and Figures

- The introduction of **diclofenac** for veterinary use in India, Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh in the 1990s has resulted in the collapse of most of their vulture populations in less than 15 years (e.g., the White-rumped Vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*) declined by 99.9%).
- Based on pre-decline population estimates, the veterinary use of NSAIDs in these countries caused millions of vulture deaths in less than two decades, before regulatory changes in veterinary use of NSAIDs bore results.
- Several NSAIDs are now scientifically proven to be toxic to the eight species of vultures of the genus *Gyps*. **Diclofenac** has been proven lethal for the Cinereous Vulture (*Acgyptus monachus*) and suspected as toxic to eagles of the genus *Aquila*, the Egyptian Vulture (*Nesophron percnopterus*) and Red-headed Vulture (*Sarvogyps calvus*).
- Many veterinary NSAIDs currently in use and being licensed for use have not been safety tested on scavenging raptor species.
- [Appendix I and/or II](#) of the CMS lists 15 African-Eurasian migratory vulture species, the majority of which are globally threatened; the [Vulture Multi-species Action Plan](#), which aims to conserve all 15 African-Eurasian migratory vulture species, includes specific actions on NSAIDs.
- [The CMS Guidelines to Prevent the Risk of Poisoning to Migratory Birds](#) provide clear legislative and non-legislative recommendations to prevent risk from veterinary use of NSAIDs.

Vulture Conservation Action Plan Myanmar (2019-2025)



Myanmar Vulture Working Group (MVWG) August 2019



Vulture Conservation Action Plan Nepal (2019)



Nepal Environment Conservation and Wildlife Conservation



MULTI-SPECIES ACTION PLAN TO CONSERVE AFRICAN-EURASIAN VULTURES (VULTURE MSAP)

CMS Raptors MOU Technical Publication No. 5
CMS Technical Series No. 35



CAF and Category 1 migratory raptors

CAF 'endemics'

Common name	Scientific name	Breeding range	Wintering range
Himalayan Griffon	<i>Gyps himalayensis</i>	100	100
Indian Vulture	<i>Gyps indicus</i>	100	100
Pallas's Fish-Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucoryphus</i>	100	100
White-rumped Vulture	<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>	95	95
Steppe Eagle	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>	100	40
Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus ginginianus</i>	100	100

Slender-billed Vulture *Gyps tenuirostris*



CAF and Category 2 migratory raptors

SCACs (>50% of breeding range in CAF area)

Common name	Scientific name	Breeding range	Wintering range
Pallid Scops-owl	<i>Otus brucei</i>	85	100
Pied Harrier	<i>Circus melanoleucos</i>	75	45
Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	60	5
Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	>50	30
Tawny Eagle	<i>Aquila rapax vindhiana</i>	100	100

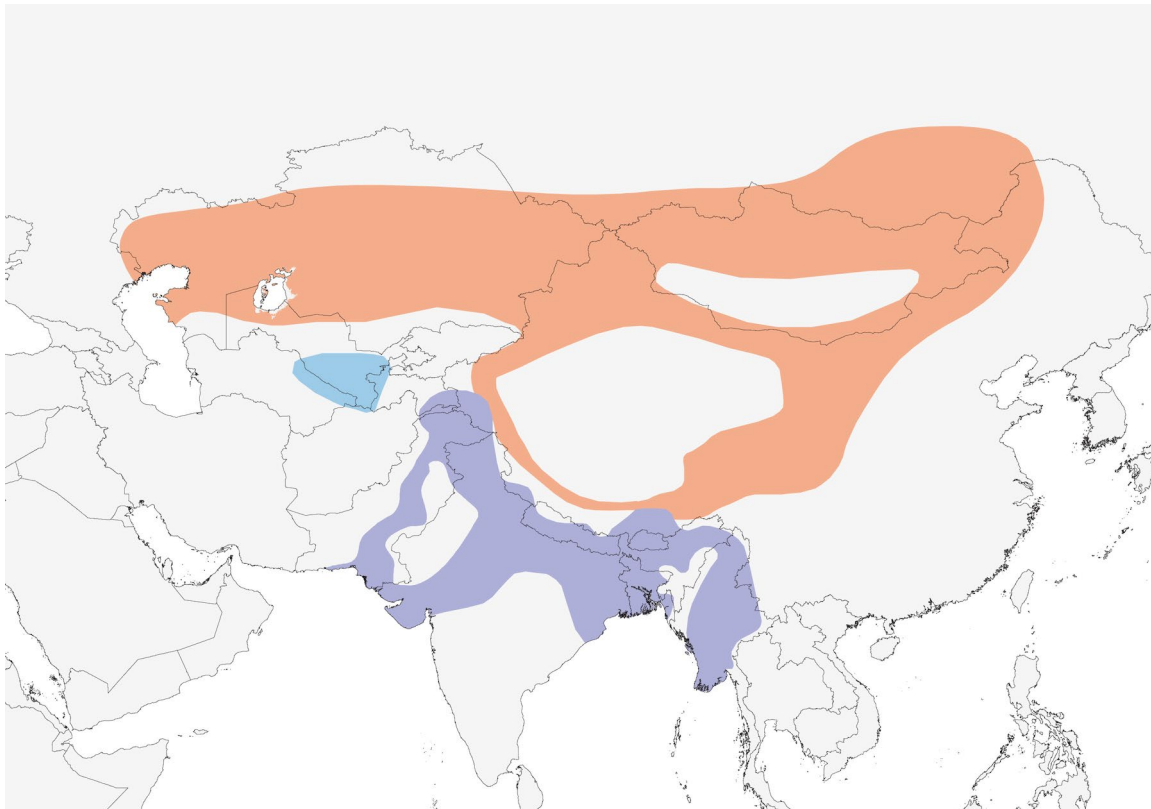
Lesser kestrel *Falco naumanni*

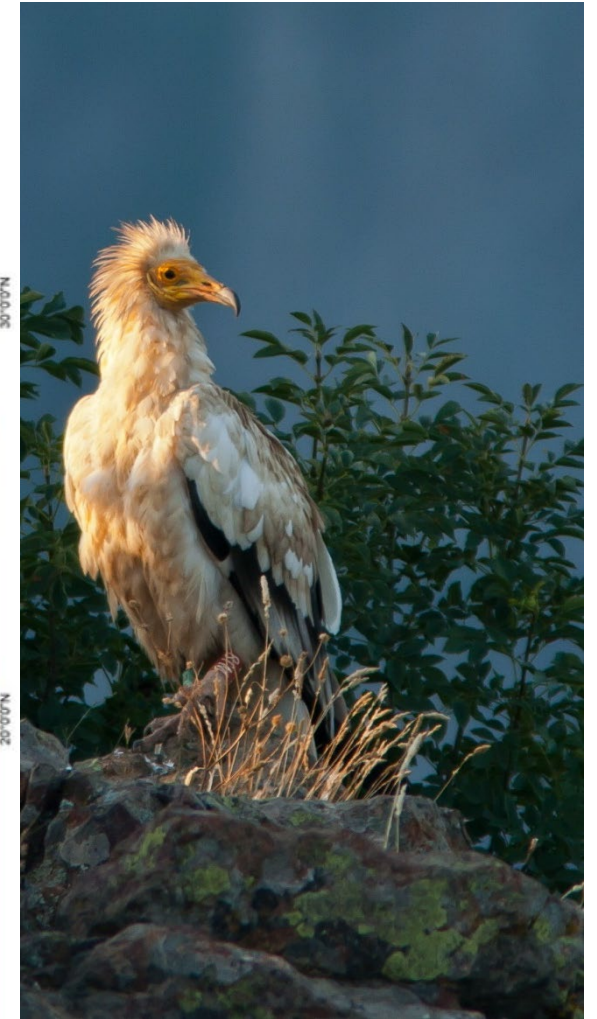
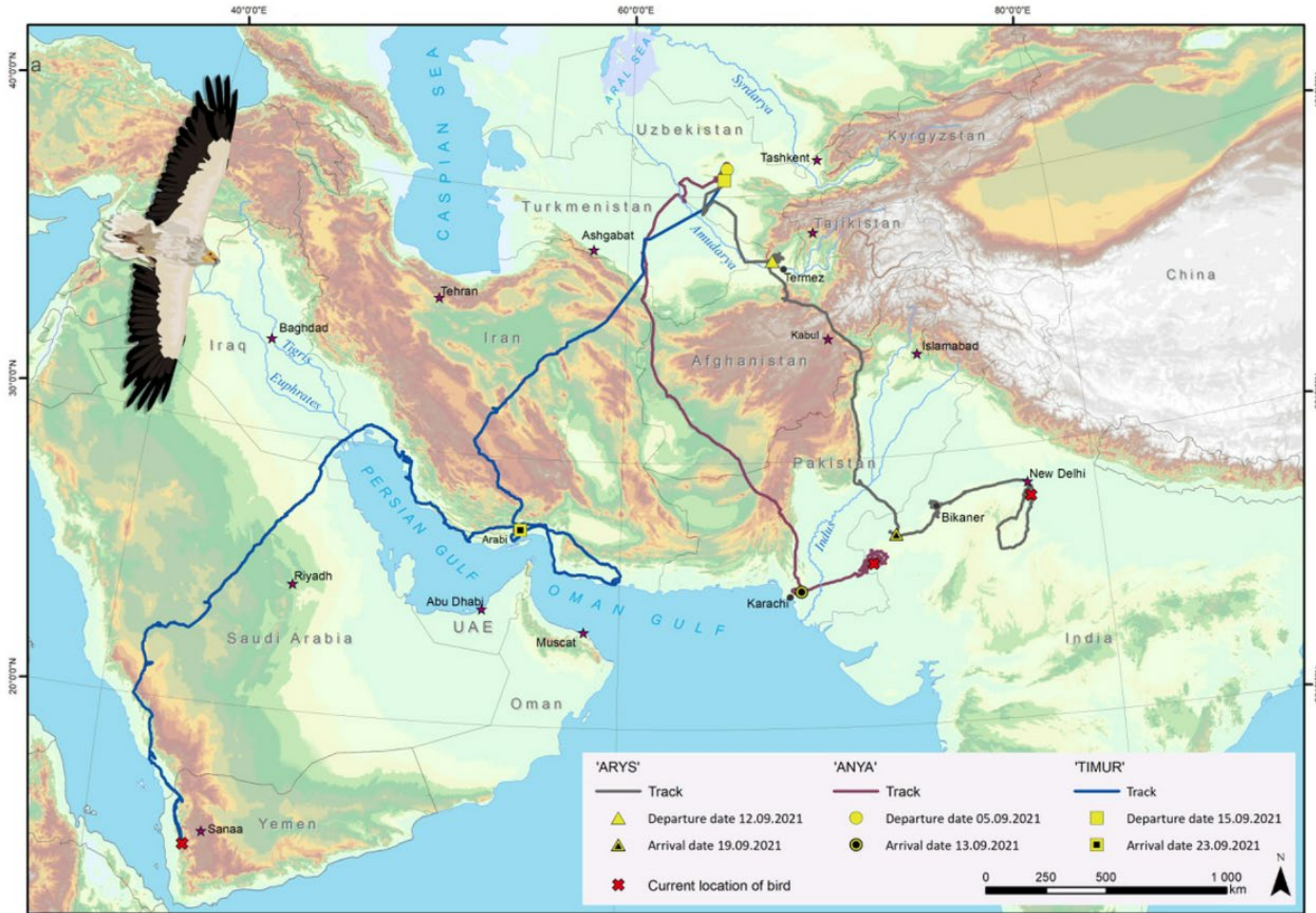


Raptors MOU and CAF

CAF as a Coordination framework
for conservation of Category 1 'endemic' species

- Pallas's Fish-Eagle (EN)

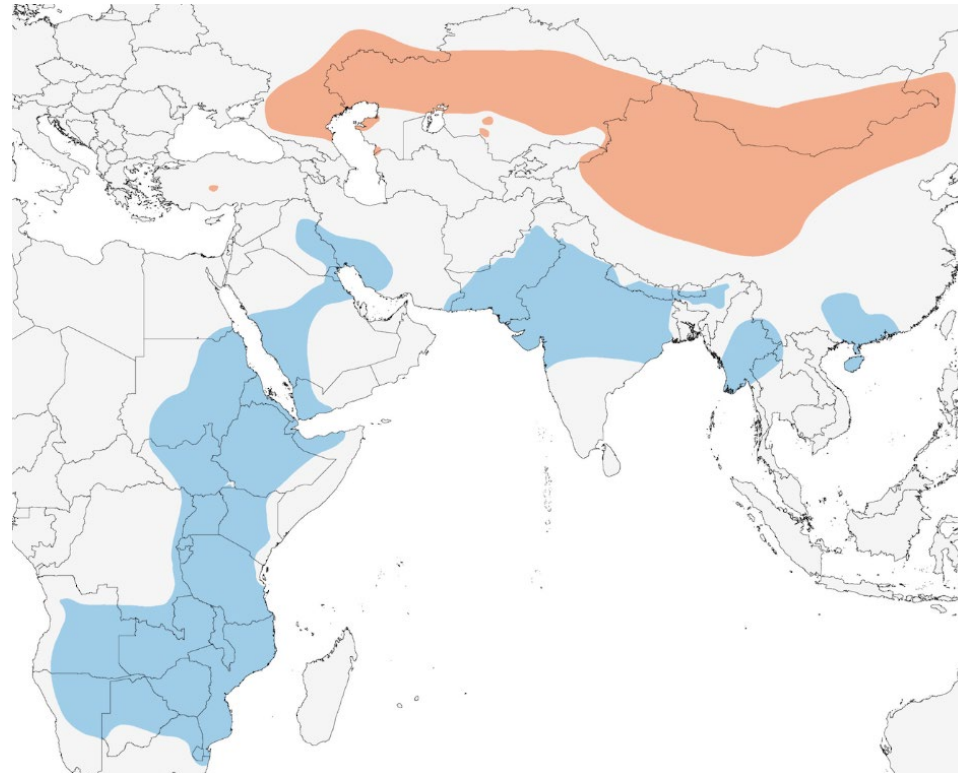




Raptors MOU and CAF

CAF as a Cooperation Framework
with African and ME Signatories of the Raptors MOU
for the conservation of Category 1 long-distance migrants
within the Raptors MOU

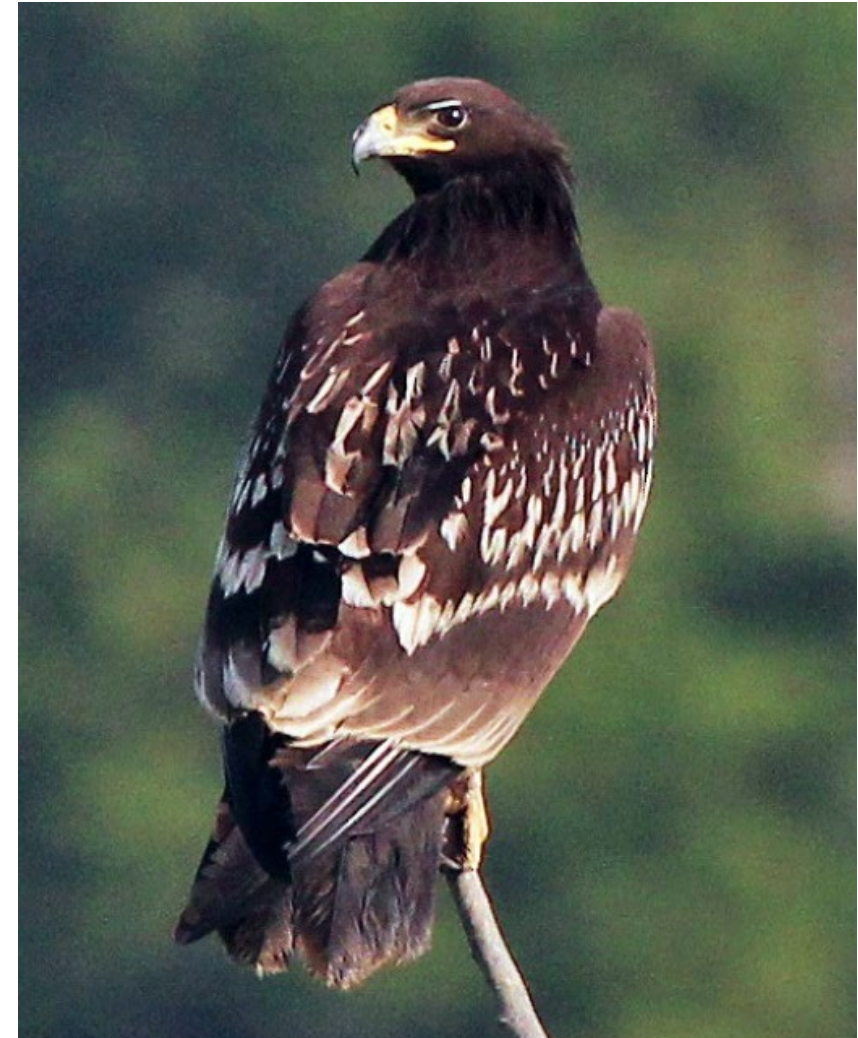
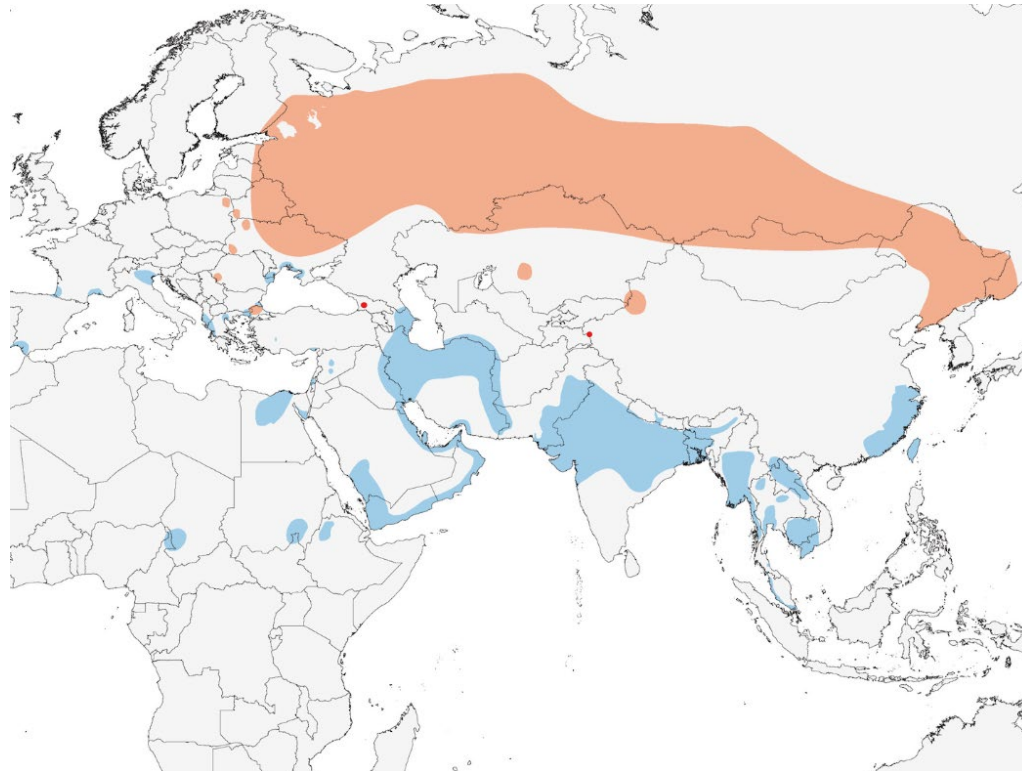
Steppe Eagle



Raptors MOU and CAF

CAF as a Cooperation Framework
with African and ME Signatories of the Raptors MOU
for the conservation of Category 1 long-distance migrants
within the Raptors MOU

Greater Spotted
Eagle



@Neoh Hor Kee



Thank you!



For more information please visit:
<https://www.cms.int/raptors/>

