



Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia

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PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE MOU AND THE ACTION PLAN

Prepared by the Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MOU

Introduction

1. Provision for the Signatories to make amendments to the MOU is made in paragraph 22 of the Memorandum; and pursuant to the MOU's paragraph 15, provision for making amendments to the Annexes is made in Rule 16 of the adopted Rules of Procedure. Section 8 of the Action Plan moreover envisages a revised version of Annex 3 being prepared for approval, following a review.
2. The background and rationale for the amendments now being proposed is contained in the commissioned consultancy report which completed that anticipated review (Pritchard 2020)¹. The review drew on stakeholder consultations, lessons learned from implementation, advice from the TAG, consultant analysis, and some factual updating. Although its scope primarily concerns the Action Plan (Annex 3), it proved logical in the interests of overall alignment for it also to address a number of points relating to the other Annexes and to the text of the MOU itself. A short summary version of the review report is also available (Pritchard 2021)².
3. The proposals presented thus far address only the English texts of the documents. There will be a need as soon as practicable for the French texts to be examined too, both to check that translations of the particular items identified here will pose no new ambiguities, and to identify any typographical or other items that may be specific to the French version.
4. Note that the elements covered in the remainder of this document do not include the species lists in Annex 1 and Table 1 of Annex 3 or the site list in Table 3 of Annex 3. These will be addressed by BirdLife International under separate TAG4 agenda items 6.2.2 and 6.2.3.

Consultations and inputs provided by TAG

5. Based on the recommendations in the 2020 review (which focus on updating, rationalisation for clarity and coherence, streamlining and some minor corrections), proposals for revisions to the MOU text and its Annexes, together with an explanatory note, were developed and circulated to TAG for comment in May 2021.
6. In September an improved version of Table 2 in Annex 3 was also shared with TAG for further comment, specifically on new material added in certain sections following additional expert input and work by the consultant and the Coordinating Unit. This version at the same time also showed the changes already made in response to TAG's comments on the May draft.
7. The texts now provided as annexes to the present document show all the proposed amendments marked as "track changes". This represents a combination of (i) the revisions to the

¹ <https://www.cms.int/en/publication/first-review-raptors-mou-action-plan-april-2020-0>

² https://www.cms.int/raptors/sites/default/files/document/cms_raptors-tag4_inf3_AP_Review_Summary.pdf

existing texts proposed as a consequence of the 2020 review, (ii) subsequent expert input and internal work on targets, indicators, timeframes and related issues in Table 2, as mentioned above, and (iii) additional amendments acting on TAG's responses to the May and September consultations described above. The annexes therefore show a consolidation of all the changes to these texts that will be proposed to Signatories for adoption at MOS3.

Proposed amendments to the MOU text (*Document 6.2a Annex A*)

8. Three sets of amendments are proposed to the MOU text, as follows:

- Adding reference to “*Accipitriformes*” in the second paragraph of the preamble and in the definition of the taxonomic scope of the MOU (paragraph 1(a)), as recommended by TAG following a revision of the taxonomy of the Falconiformes. (See review paragraph 17.7).
- Revising the list of “general conservation measures” in paragraph 8 to follow the rationalisation recommendations in the review (paragraphs 17.22-17.31), and to align with the proposed revisions in the Action Plan (Annex 3).
- Making a small number of other typographical or equivalent minor adjustments as detailed in paragraph 17.39 of the review, plus others highlighted by TAG.
- Other small wording changes in paragraph 8, in response to comments from TAG.

Proposed amendments to Annex 2 (the geographic scope of the MOU) (*Document 6.2a Annex B*)

9. TAG has previously discussed the possible case for extending the geographic scope of the MOU (see review paragraphs 17.15-17.18) but this is not being considered at this time. At present, just two small necessary technical amendments for Annex 2 will be proposed to MOS3, as follows:

- Changing the country name of Swaziland to Eswatini. (See review paragraph 17.39).
- Changing the country name of The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to North Macedonia (this change post-dated the review).

Proposed amendments to Annex 3 (the Action Plan) (*Document 6.2a Annex C*)

10. In the general/introductory text of the Action Plan, three sets of amendments are proposed, as follows:

- Re-stating the list of “priority actions” in section 4 in a streamlined and revised form, to match the proposed rationalisation of the “general conservation measures” in the MOU (see above) and the activities in Table 2 (see below). (See also review paragraphs 17.22-17.31).
- Establishing in a clearer way the position of the strategies and action plans provided for by paragraph 12 of the MOU (supported by removal of a confusingly nested duplication of references to these strategies/plans in Table 2).
- Making a small number of other typographical or equivalent minor adjustments as detailed in paragraph 17.39 of the review, with one other resulting from comments by TAG.

11. Section 5.3 of the introductory text defines the time schedules that were initially allocated to the activities in the Action Plan. These were framed in a context of the MOU initially entering into effect, and they could now be read as mainly relevant to new Signatories. This section could usefully be revised, but this did not form part of the review, and further specific consultations would be required before making any changes. Hence no proposals on this are being made at this stage.

12. Table 2 in the Action Plan (activities) is proposed to be replaced by a revised and updated version. This reflects the conclusions of the review (see paragraphs 17.22-17.31) concerning rationalisation of the structure and streamlining/updating of the content of the action specifications, bearing in mind the existing “*complex matrix of implementation objectives and expectations*” including “*12 objectives in paragraph 8 of the MOU, three objectives in section 2 of the Action Plan, nine objectives in section 4 of the Plan, a separate objective in the MOU for the development of raptor conservation strategies, and 34 activities in the Action Plan to be addressed through these strategies*”, one of which even confusingly relates to establishment of the strategies themselves. The proposed amendments also ensure alignment with the proposals now being made (for the same reasons) for a rationalised list of topics in the introductory text of the Action Plan and in the MOU itself.

13. With some consolidation and rearrangement, the 34 activities in Table 2 are now proposed to be reduced to 22; while a condensed scheme of 9 principal topics is now presented in a consistent way across Table 2, the Action Plan introductory section and the MOU. The position of raptor conservation strategies is also framed more straightforwardly.

14. As well as a rationalised organisation of topics, some of the previous activity specifications have been merged, and a few have been deleted as no longer applicable. In other cases the replacement table has simply imported the activity specifications from the existing table, sometimes with revised wording (mainly of the actions and the corresponding “target” column) to improve clarity or complementarity between actions, and to achieve some streamlining. Where possible and appropriate, account has also been taken of other issues highlighted in section 17 of the review.

15. Comments on this resulting revision by TAG have led to further amendments which have now been incorporated. Some of the information accompanying each action on priority level, timescale, responsible organisations etc has also been revised in the course of further work in 2021 and inputs from TAG. One or two aspects of this remain to be finalised.

Action requested:

TAG is requested to review (i) the revised text of the MOU as presented in Annexes A and B to the present document and (ii) the revised introductory section of the Action Plan and Table 2 of the Action Plan as presented in Annex C, and to confirm its agreement to these as the versions which will be recommended to MOS3 for adoption. Further suggestions for the information in Table 2 on “priority level”, “timescale” and “responsible organisations” would be welcome. Members should note that any final refinements suggested at this stage will need to be internally consistent wherever the same issues are reflected in different parts of the MOU text and its annexes, and where applicable will also need to be consistent with the questions on those issues in the two proposed reporting formats (Annexes A and B to document 6.6). Suggestions should therefore be accompanied by proposals for any necessary consequential changes in these different parts of the overall package.

Annex A: Proposed amendments to the MOU text

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY BIRDS OF PREY
IN AFRICA AND EURASIA**

(incorporates amendments adopted at the Third Meeting of Signatories in 20XX)

Effective: DD/MM/20XX

The Signatories

Recalling that the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, signed at Bonn on 23 June 1979, calls for international co-operative action to conserve migratory species and that Article IV.4 of that Convention encourages Signatories to conclude agreements - including non-legally binding administrative agreements in respect of any populations of migratory species;

Noting that several species of Falconiformes and Accipitriformes are listed in Appendix I and all of these species in Appendix II of that Convention;

Considering that migratory birds of prey serve as high-level indicators of ecosystem health and climate change across their range;

Recognizing that many populations of birds of prey migrate between and within Africa and Eurasia, crossing the territory of different countries;

Concerned by the considerable number of African-Eurasian migratory species of birds of prey that presently have an unfavourable conservation status at a regional and/or global level and especially by the lack of knowledge of the status and trends of migratory birds of prey in Africa and Asia;

Aware that among the factors which contribute to the unfavourable conservation status of many African-Eurasian birds of prey species are the loss, degradation and fragmentation of habitats, increased mortality and reduced breeding success as a result of unlawful killing (including especially poisoning), unsustainable taking, human economic activities (damaging biodiversity) and land-use practices and that climate change is likely to cause further adverse effects on bird of prey populations;

Mindful that a range of existing multilateral environmental instruments can or do contribute to the conservation of migratory birds of prey but lack a unifying international plan of action;

Convinced of the need for immediate and concerted international actions to conserve African-Eurasian migratory species of birds of prey and to maintain and restore them in general to favourable conservation status;

Underlining the need to increase awareness to conserve migratory birds of prey in the African-Eurasian region;

Recalling Resolution No. 3 adopted by the VI World Conference on Birds of Prey and Owls held in Budapest, Hungary, 18-23 May 2003, and UNEP/CMS Recommendation 8.12 on Improving the Conservation Status of Birds of Prey and Owls in Africa and Eurasia;

Realising the importance of involving all Range States in the region as well as relevant intergovernmental, non-governmental and private sector organisations in cooperative conservation for migratory birds of prey and their habitats;

Acknowledging that effective implementation and enforcement of such actions will require cooperation between Range States and international and national non-governmental organisations in order to encourage research, training and awareness raising to maintain, restore, manage and monitor birds of prey.

HAVE DECIDED as follows:

Scope and Definitions

1. For the purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding:
 - a) “Birds of Prey” means migratory populations of [Accipitriformes](#), Falconiformes and Strigiformes species occurring in Africa and Eurasia, listed in Annex 1 of this Memorandum of Understanding;
 - b) “Africa and Eurasia” means Range States and territories listed in Annex 2 of this Memorandum of Understanding;
 - c) “Conservation” means the protection and management, including sustainable use of birds of prey and their habitats, in accordance with the objectives and principles of this Memorandum of Understanding;
 - d) “Convention” means the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, signed at Bonn on 23 June 1979;
 - e) “Signatory” means a Signatory to this Memorandum of Understanding in accordance with Paragraph 263 below;
 - f) “Secretariat” means the Secretariat of the Convention; and
 - g) “Action Plan” means the Action Plan for the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory birds of prey contained in Annex 3.

In addition, the terms defined in Article I, sub-paragraphs 1 (a) to (i), of the Convention shall have the same meaning, *mutatis mutandis*, in this Memorandum of Understanding.

2. This Memorandum of Understanding is a legally non-binding agreement under Article IV, paragraph 4 of the Bonn Convention, as defined by Resolution 2.6 adopted at the Second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention- (Geneva, 11-14 October 1988).

3. The interpretation of any term or provision of this Memorandum of Understanding will be made in accordance with the Convention and/or relevant Resolutions adopted by its [Conference Meeting](#) of the [Parties Signatories](#), unless such a term or provision is defined or interpreted differently in this Memorandum of Understanding.

4. The three annexes form an integral part of this Memorandum of Understanding.

Fundamental Principles

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. To this end, they will endeavour to take, within the limits of their jurisdiction and having regard to their international obligations, the measures specified in Paragraphs 7 and 8, together with the specific actions laid down in the Action Plan.

6. In implementing the measures specified in Paragraph 5 above, Signatories will apply the precautionary principle.

General Conservation Measures

7. The Signatories will strive to adopt, implement and enforce such legal, regulatory and administrative measures as may be appropriate to conserve birds of prey and their habitats.

8. To this end, the Signatories will endeavour to:

- a) develop and implement effective strategies and action plans for the conservation of birds of prey and their habitats, including primarily the strategies and plans specified in Paragraph 12 below;
- b) provide for and enforce adequate legal protection for birds of prey against unsustainable killing, taking, trade or other forms of exploitation that may impact negatively on the conservation status of the species, or where such impact is uncertain;
- c) take appropriate population conservation and recovery measures to maintain birds of prey at a favourable conservation status or to restore them to such status;
- d) identify important areas, significant routes, breeding and congregatory sites for birds of prey and promote their protection and/or appropriate management, rehabilitation and/or restoration;
- e) assess problems that are posed or are likely to be posed for birds of prey or their habitats by human activities or from other causes and endeavour to implement preventative or remedial measures;
- f) take into account and integrate where possible the needs of birds of prey conservation in sectors and related policies including agriculture, forestry, energy, transport, waste, tourism and others;
- g) promote and support research, assessment, monitoring and knowledge exchange concerning the biology, ecology and conservation of birds of prey;
- h) develop and maintain programmes to raise awareness and understanding of conservation issues relating to birds of prey as well as of the objectives and provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding;
- i) strengthen capacity in relevant institutions and local communities, including by training, for actions in support of the conservation of birds of prey and their habitats; and

- j) cooperate with a view to assisting each other to implement this Memorandum of Understanding in respect of research, monitoring, conservation of transboundary and international site networks, emergency situations that require concerted international responses, and other appropriate actions.
- a) ~~identify important habitats, significant routes and congregatory sites for birds of prey occurring within their territory and encourage their protection, and/or appropriate management, assessment, rehabilitation and/or restoration;~~
- b) ~~coordinate their efforts to ensure that a network of suitable habitats is maintained or, where appropriate, established *inter alia* where such habitats extend over the territory of more than one Signatory;~~
- c) ~~investigate problems that are posed or are likely to be posed by human activities or from other causes and will endeavour to implement remedial and preventative measures, including *inter alia* habitat rehabilitation and habitat restoration, and compensatory measures for loss of habitat;~~
- d) ~~cooperate in emergency situations requiring concerted international action, in developing appropriate emergency procedures to improve the conservation of bird of prey populations and in preparing guidelines to assist individual Signatories in addressing such situations;~~
- e) ~~ensure that any utilisation of birds of prey is based on an assessment using the best available knowledge of their ecology and is sustainable for the species as well as for the ecological systems that support them;~~
- f) ~~take appropriate measures for the recovery of bird populations and re-introduction of birds of prey native to their territory provided that such actions will contribute to their conservation;~~
- g) ~~take appropriate measures to prevent the introduction into their territory of non native birds of prey, including hybrids where this would have an adverse effect on the conservation of native biodiversity;~~
- h) ~~encourage research into the biology and ecology of birds of prey, including the harmonization of research and monitoring methods and, where appropriate, the establishment of joint or cooperative research and monitoring programmes;~~
- i) ~~assess training requirements to implement conservation actions and, in cooperation with others where possible, develop appropriate priority training programmes;~~
- j) ~~develop and maintain programmes to raise awareness and understanding of conservation issues relating to birds of prey and their habitat as well as of the objectives and provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding;~~
- k) ~~exchange information and the results from research, monitoring, conservation and education programmes; and~~
- l) ~~cooperate with a view to assisting each other to implement this Memorandum of Understanding, particularly in the areas of research and monitoring.~~

9. With a view to promoting the conservation status of birds of prey, Signatories may encourage other Range States to sign this Memorandum of Understanding.

Implementation and Reporting

10. Each Signatory will designate a contact point for all matters relating to the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding; and communicate the name and address of that contact point to the Coordinating Unit once established. Before the establishment of the Coordinating Unit such duties will be undertaken by an Interim Coordinating Unit designated by the Secretariat.
11. An Interim Coordinating Unit will be established, in collaboration with the authorities of the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi, immediately after the conclusion of this Memorandum of Understanding. The Interim Coordinating Unit will operate until the establishment of a permanent Coordinating Unit under paragraph 16, and carry out similar functions.
12. Within two years of this Memorandum of Understanding becoming effective, Signatories will aim to prepare and submit to the Interim Coordinating Unit where appropriate a national or regional (e.g. EU) strategy or equivalent documents (e.g. Single Species Action Plans) for category 1 and, where appropriate, category 2 species in Table 1 in the Action Plan.
13. The Meeting of the Signatories will be the decision-making body of this Memorandum of Understanding. The Meeting will elect a Chair, ~~man~~ and will consider for adoption the rules of procedure recommended by the Secretariat at the first session of the Meeting, and by the Coordinating Unit at any subsequent session if a revision is required. Meetings will be arranged wherever possible to coincide with other appropriate gatherings where the relevant representatives would be present. Any agency or body technically qualified in such matters may be represented at sessions of the Meeting of the Signatories by observers, unless at least one third of the Signatories present object. Participation will be subject to the rules of procedure adopted by the Meeting.
14. The first session of the Meeting of the Signatories will be convened as soon as possible after at least three quarters of those that are Signatories at the time this Memorandum of Understanding becomes effective have submitted their strategies or equivalent measures or, funds permitting, three years after the Memorandum of Understanding has become effective.
15. At the first session, the Interim Coordinating Unit will present an overview report compiled on the basis of all information at its disposal pertaining to birds of prey. The first session will also adopt a format for and schedule of regular progress reports on implementing the strategies or equivalent measures. At its first session the meeting will adopt a procedure for amending the Annexes to the Memorandum of Understanding and it will also make such arrangements as may be necessary for convening subsequent sessions of the Meeting of Signatories.
16. At its first session, the Meeting of the Signatories in collaboration with the Secretariat will establish a Coordinating Unit which will assist communication, encourage reporting and facilitate activities between and among Signatories, other interested States and organisations. The Coordinating Unit will make available to all of the Signatories all of the strategies and equivalent documents it receives, prepare an overview of progress in implementation of the Action Plan six months before the second and subsequent sessions of the Meeting of Signatories, and perform such other functions as may be assigned by the Meeting of Signatories. The Coordinating Unit will be based in the office of an appropriate national, regional, or international organisation as agreed by consensus of the Signatories at their first session of their Meeting, after consideration of all offers received.

17. The Coordinating Unit will compile the national and international progress reports and make them available to all Signatories and Range States. In respect of the compilation of the first national and international progress reports, this function will be undertaken by the Interim Coordinating Unit.

18. Signatories that are also Parties to the Convention will in their national reports to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention make specific reference to activities undertaken in relation to this Memorandum of Understanding.

19. The Signatories will endeavour to exchange without undue delay the scientific, technical, legal and other information needed to co-ordinate conservation measures and cooperate with other Range States, appropriate international organisations, national non-governmental organisations and scientists with a view to developing co-operative research and facilitating the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding.

20. The Signatories will endeavour to finance from national and other sources the implementation in their territory of the measures necessary for the conservation of birds of prey. In addition, they will endeavour to assist each other in the implementation and financing of key points of the Action Plan, and seek assistance from other sources for the financing and implementation of their strategies or equivalent measures.

Final Provisions

21. This Memorandum of Understanding is concluded for an indefinite period.

22. This Memorandum of Understanding may be amended at any Meeting of the Signatories. Any amendment adopted will become effective on the date of its adoption by the Meeting by consensus. The Secretariat will communicate the text of any amendment so adopted to all Signatories and to all other Range States.

23. Nothing in this Memorandum of Understanding will prevent any of the Signatories adopting stricter measures for the conservation of birds of prey in its territory.

24. The Signatories will review at each session of the Meeting of Signatories this Memorandum of Understanding, including the operational, administrative and institutional arrangements for implementation.

25. Nothing in this Memorandum of Understanding will bind any of the Signatories either jointly or severally.

26. This Memorandum of Understanding will be open for signature indefinitely at the seat of the CMS Secretariat to all Range States of African-Eurasian birds of prey and to any regional economic integration organisation.

27. Inter-Governmental and international and national non-governmental organisations may associate themselves with this Memorandum of Understanding through their signature as co-operating partners, in particular with the implementation of the Action Plan in accordance with Article VII, paragraph 9 of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species.

28. This Memorandum of Understanding will become effective on the first day of the month following the date on which there are at least eight Range State Signatories including at least two each from Europe, Asia and Africa. Thereafter, it will become effective for any other Signatory on the first day of the month following the date of signature by that Signatory.

29. Any Signatory may withdraw from this Memorandum of Understanding by written notification to the Secretariat. The withdrawal will take effect for that Signatory six months after the date on which the Secretariat has received the notification.

30. The Secretariat will be the Depositary of this Memorandum of Understanding.

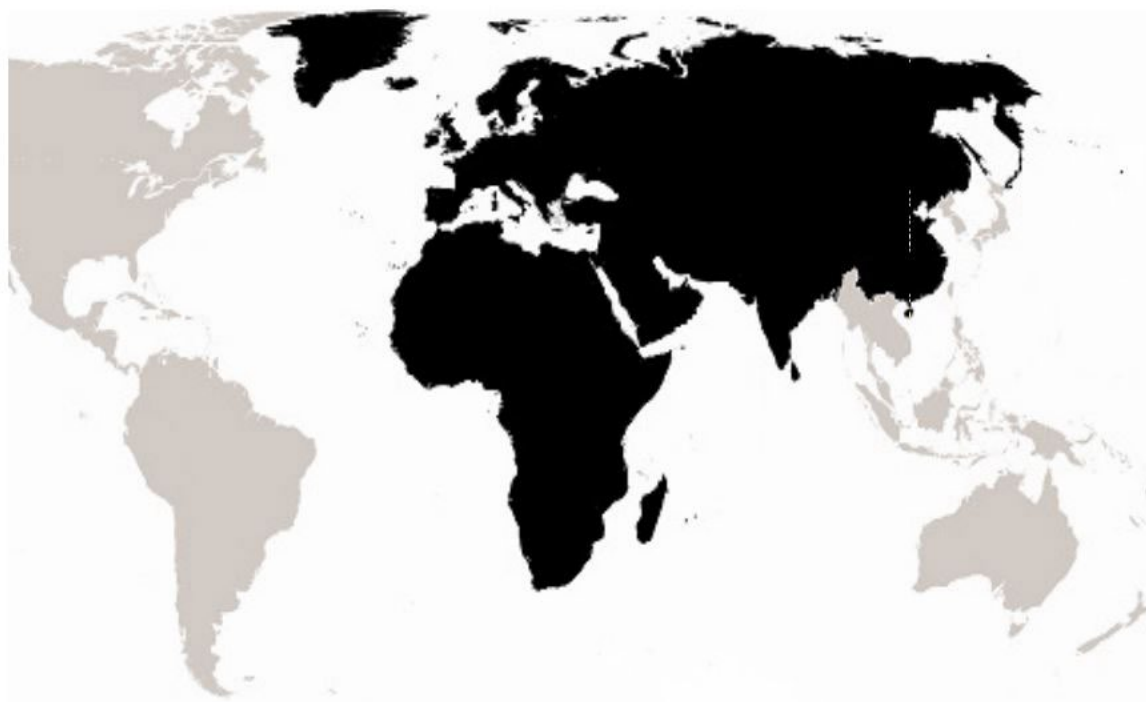
31. The working languages for all matters relating to this Memorandum of Understanding, including meetings, documents and correspondence, will be English and French.

Annex B: Proposed amendments to the Range State list

Map of the area included within this Memorandum of Understanding

(as amended by the Second [and Third Meetings](#) of Signatories in 2015 [and 20XX](#))

Effective: ~~6 October 2015~~ [DD/MM/20XX](#)



Only those Range States and territories listed below, and shown in black on this map, are included within the scope of this MoU.

Afrotropical realm		
Angola	Eswatini	Nigeria
Benin	Ethiopia	Rwanda
Botswana	Gabon	São Tomé and Príncipe
Burkina Faso	Gambia	Senegal
Burundi	Ghana	Seychelles
Cabo Verde	Guinea	Sierra Leone
Cameroon	Guinea-Bissau	Somalia
Central African Republic	Kenya	South Africa
Chad	Lesotho	South Sudan
Comoros	Liberia	Sudan
Congo	Madagascar	Swaziland
Côte d'Ivoire	Malawi	Togo
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Mali	Uganda
Djibouti	Mauritius	United Republic of Tanzania
Equatorial Guinea	Mozambique	Zambia
Eritrea	Namibia	Zimbabwe
	Niger	

Palaearctic realm		
Afghanistan	Israel	Saudi Arabia
Albania	Italy	Serbia
Algeria	Jordan	Slovakia
Andorra	Kazakhstan	Slovenia
Armenia	Kuwait	Spain, including the Canary Islands
Austria	Kyrgyzstan	Sweden
Azerbaijan	Latvia	Switzerland
Bahrain	Lebanon	Syrian Arab Republic
Belarus	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Tajikistan
Belgium	Liechtenstein	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Lithuania	Tunisia
Bulgaria	Luxembourg	Turkey
China	Malta	Turkmenistan
Croatia	Mauritania	Ukraine
Cyprus	Moldova	United Arab Emirates
Czech Republic	Monaco	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, including the Bailiwick of Guernsey, the Bailiwick of Jersey, the Isle of Man, Gibraltar and the Sovereign Base Areas in Cyprus (Akrotiri and Okehelia)
Denmark, including Faroe Islands and Greenland	Mongolia	Uzbekistan
Egypt	Montenegro	Vatican City
Estonia	Morocco	Yemen
Finland, including Åland Islands	Netherlands	
France, including Mayotte and Réunion	North Macedonia	
Georgia	Norway, including Svalbard and Jan Mayen Islands	
Germany	Oman	
Greece	Palestinian Authority Territories	
Hungary	Poland	
Iceland	Portugal	
Iran	Qatar	
Iraq	Romania	
Ireland	Russia	
	San Marino	
Indo-Malayan realm		
Bangladesh	India	Pakistan
Bhutan	Nepal	Sri Lanka

Annex C: Proposed amendments to the Action Plan

ACTION PLAN FOR THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY BIRDS OF PREY IN AFRICA AND EURASIA

(incorporates amendments to [Table 1](#) adopted at the Second [and Third](#) Meetings of Signatories in 2015 [and 20XX](#))

1. General Aim

The general aim is to ensure that all populations of African-Eurasian migratory birds of prey (including owls) are maintained in, or returned to, Favourable Conservation Status within the meaning of Article 1(c) of the Convention.

2. Objectives

For the effective period of this Action Plan, the following objectives are set:

- a) To halt and reverse the population declines³ of globally threatened (Critically Endangered, Endangered and Vulnerable) and Near Threatened birds of prey and alleviate threats to them such that they are no longer globally threatened or Near Threatened;
- b) To halt and reverse the population declines of other birds of prey with an Unfavourable Conservation Status within Africa and Eurasia and alleviate threats to them in order to return their populations to Favourable Conservation Status; and
- c) To anticipate, reduce and avoid potential and new threats to all bird of prey species, especially to prevent the populations of any species undergoing long-term decline.

3. Species Categories

- 3.1. The bird of prey species included in Annex 1 of this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) are assigned within the following categories:

Category 1: Globally threatened and Near Threatened species as defined according to the latest IUCN Red List and listed as such in the BirdLife International World Bird Database;

Category 2: Species considered to have Unfavourable Conservation Status at a regional level within the Range States and territories listed in Annex 2 to the MoU; and

Category 3: all other migratory [raptor](#) species.

- 3.2. The species in Annex 1 of this MoU are assigned to the categories provided for in paragraph 3.1 as given in Table 1, for the effective period of this Action Plan, unless Table 1 is amended in accordance with a procedure to be agreed by the Signatories at the first session of the Meeting of Signatories.

4. Priority Actions

³ Population decline is taken to mean a reduction in abundance or range.

Taking into account the predicted impacts of threats and opportunities for reducing them, in accordance with paragraph 8 of the Memorandum of Understanding and supported by the strategies and action plans provided for in paragraph 12 of the Memorandum of Understanding, the priority categories of actions for achieving the objectives given in paragraph 2 above are considered to be:

- a. legal protection of species against killing and unsustainable exploitation;
 - b. species population management and recovery programmes;
 - c. conservation and management of habitats and sites;
 - d. assessing and responding to threats and pressures;
 - e. action/integration across sectors;
 - f. research, monitoring and information management;
 - g. raising awareness;
 - h. strengthening capacity; and
 - i. international cooperation.
- a. ~~Protecting all species from unlawful killing, including poisoning, shooting, persecution, and unsustainable exploitation;~~
 - b. ~~Promoting, as far as possible, high environmental standards, including through Environmental Impact Assessments, in the planning and construction of structures to minimise their impact on species, particularly by collision and electrocution, and seeking to minimise the impact of existing structures where it becomes evident that they constitute a negative impact for the species concerned;~~
 - c. ~~Conserving bird of prey habitats by encouraging an Ecosystem Approach to sustainable development and sectoral land use practices, as envisaged in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Ecosystem Approach (CBD V/6 and VII/11);~~
 - d. ~~Protecting and/or appropriately managing important sites: especially where Category 1 species breed, and all migration bottlenecks (known important sites are listed in Table 3);~~
 - e. ~~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;~~
 - f. ~~Raising awareness about birds of prey, their current plight and the threats that they face, and the measures that need to be taken to conserve them;~~
 - g. ~~Assessing and monitoring of populations throughout the Range States to establish reliable population trends; conducting research to establish the impacts of threats on them and the measures that are needed to alleviate them; and, sharing information between Signatories and other Range States;~~
 - h. ~~Conducting research on species ecology and migratory behaviour, including analysing available data in order to describe flyway boundaries and migratory patterns, and routes, at the level of species' populations; and~~

- i. ~~Building capacity for conservation actions (in relevant institutions and local communities) by developing knowledge and monitoring of birds of prey.~~

5. Implementation Framework

5.1. **Activities** 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. The Coordinating Unit as envisaged by paragraph 16 of the MoU will assist Signatories with implementation.

5.2. **Priorities** The activities in Table 2 are accorded the following orders of priority:

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.

These priorities ought to be taken into account in the preparation and implementation of strategies, or equivalent documents, for birds of prey as envisaged under paragraph 12 of the MoU.

5.3. **Time schedule** The activities in Table 2 are accorded the following time schedules:

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.

5.4. **Responsibilities** The organisations expected to lead on the various activities are indicated in Table 2. Signatories are urged to encourage the full range of necessary organisations to participate in the implementation of this Action Plan whether or not they are currently Signatories to the MoU.

5.5. **Targets** The Coordinating Unit will monitor the progress and efficacy of this Action Plan according to the performance targets for certain activities given in Table 2.

6. Synergy with MEAs

Insofar as a Range State or a Regional Economic Integration Organisation (REIO) ~~Signatory~~ which is represented as a Signatory to this Memorandum of Understanding is also a Contracting Party to one or more Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) that has or have provisions that achieve or otherwise assist the aims, objectives and activities of this Action Plan, such MEAs will be applied as appropriate and to their full extent in the first instance.

7. Progress Reports

Taking advice from Signatories on their progress in implementing this Action Plan as envisaged in paragraphs 12 and 14 of the MoU, the ~~Secretariat~~Coordinating Unit will report on progress with implementing the Action Plan in accordance with paragraph 15 of the MoU.

8. Period of Effectiveness

This Action Plan comes into effect on the same date as the MoU for a period of seven years. At least two years before the expiry of this period, a full review of the Action Plan will be undertaken and a revised version prepared for the approval of the Signatories.

Table 1: Categorisation of African-Eurasian birds of prey covered by the Action Plan⁽⁴⁾

(as amended by the Second Meeting of Signatories in 2015)

Effective: 6 October 2015

[To be presented separately by BirdLife International].

⁴ Based on Annex 1 as amended by the Second Meeting of Signatories in 2015 and effective on 6 October 2015.

Table 2: Activities to be done under paragraph 5 of the Action Plan

<u>Activities</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Countries</u>	<u>Priority Level</u>	<u>Time-scale</u>	<u>Main actors</u>	<u>Target</u>
<p><u>Activity 1: Legal protection of species against killing and unsustainable exploitation</u></p> <p><i>(Provide for and enforce adequate legal protection for birds of prey against unsustainable killing, taking, trade or other forms of exploitation that may impact negatively on the conservation status of the species, or where such impact is uncertain).</i></p>						
1.1. Update CMS Appendix I to include all Category 1 species	<u>Cat. 1</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>Second</u>	<u>Short</u>	<u>CMS Secretariat / COP</u>	<u>CMS Appendix I amended</u>
1.2. Review and where possible adapt relevant legislation to ensure that it protects all birds of prey from all forms of a) deliberate killing; b) disturbance where this is considered detrimental to the conservation of the species; c) egg-collection and taking of birds from the wild; and d) trade, 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.	<u>All</u>	<u>All</u>	<u>First</u>	<u>Immediate</u>	<u>Governments</u>	<p><u>All birds of prey given full protection in the relevant legislation of all Range State Signatories; including prohibition of unsustainable taking and trade.</u></p> <p><i>Indicator: Proportion of Signatories giving full legal protection to all raptor species for which they are a Range State.</i></p> <p><i>Data source: National Reports; legislation reviews.</i></p> <p><i>Indicator: Proportion of MOU-listed species fully protected throughout the MOU area.</i></p> <p><i>Data source: Analysis of data from first indicator above against national species lists, commissioned by Coordinating Unit (to be developed).</i></p>
1.3. Review and where possible adapt relevant legislation to ensure that it bans the use of exposed poison baits and other toxic chemical methods of predator or pest control where these have been shown to cause significant avian mortalities.	<u>All</u>	<u>All</u>	<u>First</u>	<u>Immediate</u>	<u>Governments</u>	<p><u>The relevant legislation of all Signatories bans the use of exposed poison baits and other toxic chemical methods of predator or pest control where these have been shown to cause significant avian mortalities.</u></p> <p><i>Indicator: Proportion of Signatories with legislation containing the relevant prohibitions.</i></p>

<u>Activities</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Countries</u>	<u>Priority Level</u>	<u>Time-scale</u>	<u>Main actors</u>	<u>Target</u>
						<u>Data source: National Reports; legislation reviews.</u>
1.4. <u>Ensure that legislation protecting birds of prey and controlling the factors that may threaten them is effectively implemented and enforced.</u>	<u>All</u>	<u>All</u>	<u>First</u>	<u>Short</u>	<u>Governments; statutory agencies; law enforcement bodies; judiciary</u>	<p><u>Implementation, monitoring and enforcement adequately resourced and delivered, and violators prosecuted.</u></p> <p><u>Indicator: Country-by-country scores in self-assessment scorecard.</u> <u>Data source: Periodic self-assessment exercise (to be determined); prosecution data.</u></p>
<p><u>Activity 2: Species population management and recovery programmes</u> <u>(Take appropriate population conservation and recovery measures to maintain birds of prey at a favourable conservation status or to restore them to such status).</u></p>						
2.1. <u>Prepare and implement 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.</u>	<u>Cat. 1 species</u>	<u>All Range States of Cat. 1 species</u>	<u>First</u>	<u>Medium</u>	<u>Governments, BirdLife International, IUCN SSC Specialist Groups, national ornithological & relevant research organisations</u>	<p><u>Conservation action plans developed, adopted and being implemented for all globally threatened species.</u></p> <p><u>Indicator: Proportion of globally threatened species covered by an actively implemented action plan.</u> <u>Data source: National Reports; TAG Action Plan status review.</u></p>
2.2. <u>Where appropriate, based on the best available science and taking account of prevailing international guidelines, implement programmes for reintroduction to the wild or restocking (with or without support from captive breeding) of species whose [unfavourable] conservation status is shown to benefit from such action.</u>	<u>All relevant species</u>	<u>All relevant countries</u>	<u>Second</u>	<u>Medium</u>	<u>Governments, NGOs and relevant conservation organisations</u>	<p><u>Reintroduction or restocking programmes implemented, where compliant with relevant standards such as IUCN's "Guidelines for reintroductions and other conservation translocations".</u></p> <p><u>Indicator: Number of compliant reintroduction and restocking programmes implemented.</u> <u>Data source: National Reports.</u> <u>Indicator: Number and identity of species covered by compliant</u></p>

<u>Activities</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Countries</u>	<u>Priority Level</u>	<u>Time-scale</u>	<u>Main actors</u>	<u>Target</u>
						<u>reintroduction and restocking programmes in implementation.</u> <u>Data source: National Reports.</u>
<u>2.3. Endeavour to facilitate supplementary feeding opportunities for necrophagous birds of prey, taking account of relevant sanitary considerations.</u>	<u>All relevant species</u>	<u>All relevant countries</u>	<u>Second</u>	<u>Short</u>	<u>Governments in collaboration with relevant NGOs, landowners</u>	<u>Feeding stations established, as appropriate and feasible.</u> <u>Indicator: Number of supplementary feeding initiatives in operation for necrophagous birds of prey, where appropriate for their conservation.</u> <u>Data source: National reports.</u>
<u>Activity 3: Conservation and management of habitats and sites</u> <u>(Identify important habitats, significant routes, breeding and congregatory sites for birds of prey and promote their protection and/or appropriate management, rehabilitation and/or restoration).</u>						
<u>3.1. Assess the habitat requirements of species of birds of prey that have suffered particular loss of habitat, and develop and implement remedial measures, including restoration of suitable habitats where appropriate.</u>	<u>All relevant species</u>	<u>All relevant Range States</u>	<u>Second</u>	<u>Short</u>	<u>Governments, BirdLife International, other NGOs, national ornithological and relevant research organisations</u>	<u>Programmes of habitat improvement / restoration and management developed on the basis of a needs assessment and implemented.</u> <u>Indicator: Extent of area managed to restore or improve habitat to benefit specific raptor species.</u> <u>Data source: Periodic review of raptor-related restoration initiatives (to be determined).</u> <u>Indicator: Number of sites of recognised importance for raptors restored or improved to benefit the raptor species concerned.</u> <u>Data source: Periodic review of raptor-related restoration initiatives (to be determined).</u>
<u>3.2. Designate nationally and internationally important sites for birds of prey (including those sites listed in Table 3) as protected areas with</u>	<u>All</u>	<u>All countries</u>	<u>Second</u>	<u>Medium</u>	<u>Governments, site stakeholders, BirdLife International and other NGOs</u>	<u>All important sites have appropriate conservation measures in place and effectively implemented.</u>

<u>Activities</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Countries</u>	<u>Priority Level</u>	<u>Time-scale</u>	<u>Main actors</u>	<u>Target</u>
<u>management plans, or as areas subject to other effective area-based conservation/ restoration measures, including where appropriate at the landscape scale.</u>						<p><u>Indicator: Number and proportion of nationally and internationally important sites for birds of prey covered by protected areas or other effective area-based conservation/ restoration measures.</u> <u>Data source: National Reports.</u></p> <p><u>Indicator: Mean percentage of area of raptor-relevant IBAs/KBAs in each country covered by protected areas or other effective area-based conservation/ restoration measures.</u> <u>Data source: KBA Partnership.</u></p> <p><u>Indicator: Number and proportion of nationally and internationally important sites for birds of prey covered by actively implemented management plans.</u> <u>Data source: Periodic self-assessment exercise (to be determined).</u></p>
<p>Activity 4: Assessing and responding to threats and pressures (Assess problems that are posed or are likely to be posed for birds of prey or their habitats by human activities or from other causes and endeavour to implement preventative or remedial measures).</p>						
<u>4.1. Undertake assessments at both the geographical and population level of the nature, likelihood, severity and potential consequences of threats facing birds of prey, whether anthropogenic or otherwise; and use the results to inform other activities in this table.</u>	<u>All</u>	<u>All</u>	<u>Third</u>	<u>Short</u>	<u>Appropriate government agencies, research organisations and qualified NGOs</u>	<p><u>Assessments of threats completed and updated at intervals of not less than every two Meetings of the Signatories.</u></p> <p><u>Indicator: Number of raptor threat assessments completed.</u> <u>Data source: National Reports and Cooperating Partner reports.</u></p> <p><u>Indicator: Number of raptor threat assessment updates completed within six years of the initial assessment.</u> <u>Data source: National Reports and Cooperating Partner reports.</u></p>

<u>Activities</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Countries</u>	<u>Priority Level</u>	<u>Time-scale</u>	<u>Main actors</u>	<u>Target</u>
4.2. Ensure that applications for consent for relevant land use change, infrastructure development, hazardous substance use, waste management and other activities potentially having significant effects on birds of prey or their habitats are subject to Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) or Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) that adhere to CMS and other international best practice guidelines/make use of other available tools & expert groups, and that the results of these assessments are used to inform relevant consent decisions and (where consent is granted) to define effective mitigation measures where necessary.	All relevant species	All	Second	Ongoing	National governments, local governments and sectoral decision-making bodies, CMS Task Forces on Energy and on Illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds in the Mediterranean.	Robust and comprehensive EIA and SEA provisions are made in legislation, backed by relevant guidance/expertise and implemented effectively in all relevant cases. <i>Indicator:</i> Number and proportion of Signatories with legislation providing for robust and comprehensive EIA and SEA. <i>Data source:</i> National Reports.
Activity 5: Action/integration across sectors						
(Take into account and integrate where possible the needs of bird of prey conservation in sectors and related policies including agriculture, forestry, energy, transport, waste, tourism and others).						
5.1. Promote awareness, informed consideration and where possible integration of the needs of bird of prey conservation into the policies and practices of relevant sectors such as agriculture, forestry, energy, transport, waste and tourism.	All	All	Second	Ongoing	Governments and relevant sectors and organisations	The conservation needs of birds of prey are understood and integrated into the policies and practices of relevant sectors. <i>Indicator:</i> Number of Signatories reporting integration of raptor conservation into relevant sectors. <i>Data source:</i> National Reports. <i>Indicator:</i> Number of programmes implemented for informing decision makers in non-conservation sectors about the conservation needs of migratory birds of prey. <i>Data source:</i> National Reports.

<u>Activities</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Countries</u>	<u>Priority Level</u>	<u>Time-scale</u>	<u>Main actors</u>	<u>Target</u>
Activity 6: Research, monitoring and information management (Promote and support research, assessment, monitoring and knowledge exchange concerning the biology, ecology and conservation of birds of prey).						
6.1. <u>Assess, monitor and report on the status and trends of all aspects of the conservation of birds of prey.</u>	<u>All</u>	<u>All countries</u>	<u>First</u>	<u>Ongoing</u>	<u>Appropriate government agencies, research organisations and qualified NGOs</u>	<u>Status & trends reports completed, and repeated at intervals of not less than every two Meetings of the Signatories.</u> <i>Indicator:</i> <u>Number of raptor status & trends assessments completed per MOS reporting period.</u> <i>Data source:</i> <u>National Reports.</u>
6.2. <u>Develop species and site monitoring protocols; and design and implement coordinated monitoring programmes.</u>	<u>All</u>	<u>All Range States</u>	<u>First</u>	<u>Ongoing</u>	<u>Governments, BirdLife International, other NGOs, national ornithological and relevant research organisations</u>	<u>Monitoring guidelines / manual prepared for national and transboundary data collection; coordinated monitoring programmes in place and operating.</u> <i>Indicator:</i> <u>Production of relevant monitoring protocols.</u> <i>Data source:</i> <u>National Reports; and overview research undertaken by MOU Coordinating Unit.</u> <i>Indicator:</i> <u>Number of relevant national/transboundary monitoring programmes in place and operating.</u> <i>Data source:</i> <u>National Reports.</u> <i>Indicator:</i> <u>Number of relevant international coordinated monitoring programmes in place and operating.</u> <i>Data source:</i> <u>Research undertaken by MOU Coordinating Unit.</u>
6.3. <u>Establish processes by which national and international priorities for research on issues of relevance to the conservation of birds of prey are agreed among relevant stakeholders, updated as necessary from time to</u>	<u>All</u>	<u>All</u>	<u>Third</u>	<u>Ongoing</u>	<u>Governments, BirdLife International, other NGOs, national ornithological and relevant research organisations</u>	<u>Research priority frameworks agreed and updated as necessary.</u> <i>Indicator:</i> <u>Number of research priority frameworks and updates of them agreed.</u>

<u>Activities</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Countries</u>	<u>Priority Level</u>	<u>Time-scale</u>	<u>Main actors</u>	<u>Target</u>
<u>time, and taken into account in relevant research funding programmes.</u>						<u>Data source: National Reports; ad hoc information from other main actors.</u>
6.4. <u>Establish and operate suitable platforms for exchange of knowledge, experience and information.</u>	<u>All</u>	<u>All</u>	<u>Second</u>	<u>Short</u>	<u>MOU Coordinating Unit and TAG, governments, BirdLife International, other NGOs, national ornithological and relevant research organisations</u>	Relevant and up to date knowledge, experience and information is readily accessible and freely exchanged. <u>Indicator: Number of platforms in operation for exchange of relevant data, knowledge and experience.</u> <u>Data source: National Reports (for national-level platforms); consultations undertaken by MOU Coordinating Unit (for other platforms).</u>
<u>Activity 7: Raising awareness</u>						
<u>(Develop and maintain programmes to raise awareness and understanding of conservation issues relating to birds of prey as well as of the objectives and provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding).</u>						
7.1. <u>Develop and implement a programme of public awareness, using electronic and print media, organised events and other methods, to publicise the migrations undertaken by birds of prey, their status, the threats they face and actions that can be taken to conserve them.</u>	<u>All species</u>	<u>All countries</u>	<u>Second</u>	<u>Short</u>	<u>Governments in collaboration with NGOs</u>	Programme implemented, and conservation needs of birds of prey widely understood amongst local communities and the public at large. <u>Indicator: Number of Signatories reporting implementation of relevant awareness programmes per reporting period.</u> <u>Data source: National Reports.</u> <u>Indicator: Raptor-specific sub-indicator of the BIP Biodiversity Barometer (to be developed).</u> <u>Data source: Commissioned consumer market research (UEBT) (would need raptor-specific enhancement).</u>

<u>Activities</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Countries</u>	<u>Priority Level</u>	<u>Time-scale</u>	<u>Main actors</u>	<u>Target</u>
<u>7.2. Provide information notices, leaflets and/or other interpretation at important sites for birds of prey such as migration bottlenecks, informing people of their importance and the measures that can be taken to conserve the birds.</u>	<u>All species</u>	<u>All countries, particularly those with bottleneck sites</u>	<u>Second</u>	<u>Short</u>	<u>Governments and NGOs</u>	<u>Interpretation provided at key sites; importance and relevant conservation needs well understood by residents and visitors.</u> <u>Indicator: Number of relevant sites where interpretation about raptor conservation is provided.</u> <u>Data source: Commissioned survey (to be developed).</u>
<u>7.3. Develop and implement a schools education programme, supported by appropriate teaching resources, to inform school children of the migrations undertaken by birds of prey, their status, the threats to them and actions that can be taken to conserve them.</u>	<u>All species</u>	<u>All countries</u>	<u>Third</u>	<u>Medium</u>	<u>Governments in collaboration with NGOs</u>	<u>Programme implemented, and conservation needs of birds of prey widely understood by teachers and taught in schools.</u> <u>Indicator: Number of Signatories reporting delivery of schools education programmes on migratory birds of prey, per reporting period.</u> <u>Data source: National Reports.</u>
<u>Activity 8: Strengthening capacity</u> <u>(Strengthen capacity in relevant institutions and local communities, including by training, for actions in support of the conservation of birds of prey and their habitats).</u>						
<u>8.1. Develop and deliver training and other support programmes to strengthen the capacity of agencies responsible for the application, monitoring, enforcement and reporting of relevant laws and regulations.</u>	<u>All</u>	<u>All</u>	<u>First</u>	<u>Ongoing</u>	<u>Governments, law enforcement agencies and collaborating NGOs</u>	<u>Training delivered; enforcement effectiveness increased.</u> <u>Indicator: Number of relevant training or other support programmes implemented per reporting period.</u> <u>Data source: National Reports.</u> <u>Indicator: Number of beneficiaries of relevant training or other support programmes per reporting period.</u> <u>Data source: In-country assessments for a sample of Signatory countries (to be developed).</u>

<u>Activities</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Countries</u>	<u>Priority Level</u>	<u>Time-scale</u>	<u>Main actors</u>	<u>Target</u>
8.2. <u>Develop and deliver training opportunities and other support for local communities, citizen science initiatives and volunteer networks to enhance their capacity for undertaking bird of prey surveys, monitoring, site protection work and related outreach.</u>	<u>All</u>	<u>All</u>	<u>Third</u>	<u>Ongoing</u>	<u>Governments and relevant NGOs</u>	<p><u>Training/other support delivered, coverage and quality of surveys, monitoring, site protection work and related outreach improved.</u></p> <p><i>Indicator:</i> <u>Number of relevant training or other support programmes implemented per reporting period.</u> <i>Data source:</i> <u>National Reports.</u> <i>Indicator:</i> <u>Number of beneficiaries of relevant training or other support programmes per reporting period.</u> <i>Data source:</i> <u>In-country assessments for a sample of Signatory countries (to be developed).</u></p>

Activity 9: International cooperation

(Cooperate with a view to assisting each other to implement the Memorandum of Understanding in respect of research, monitoring, conservation of transboundary and international site networks, emergency situations that require concerted international responses, and other appropriate actions).

9.1. <u>Exploit and further develop opportunities to cooperate internationally through exchange of information and experience, transboundary collaboration agreements, resource mobilisation support, conferences, joint programmes of work, common emergency response protocols and other methods for coordinated implementation of the MOU.</u>	<u>All</u>	<u>All</u>	<u>Third</u>	<u>Ongoing</u>	<u>Governments</u>	<p><u>International cooperation arrangements operating effectively and with no significant gaps.</u></p> <p><i>Indicator:</i> <u>Number of relevant active international cooperation activities specifically described by Signatories.</u> <i>Data source:</i> <u>National Reports.</u> <i>Indicator:</i> <u>Number of Signatories to the MOU.</u> <i>Data source:</i> <u>Overview by Coordinating Unit.</u></p>
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<u>Activities</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Countries</u>	<u>Priority Level</u>	<u>Time-scale</u>	<u>Organisations</u>	<u>Target</u>
Activity 1: Improvement of legal protection						

Activities	Species	Countries	Priority Level	Time-scale	Organisations	Target
1.1. Update CMS Appendix I to include all Category 1 species	Cat. 1	–	Second	Short	CMS Secretariat / COP	CMS Appendix I amended
1.2. 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	All	All	First	Immediate	Governments	All birds of prey given full protection in the relevant legislation of all Range State Signatories and unsustainable taking of birds is prohibited
1.3 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	All	All	First	Immediate	Governments	The relevant legislation of all Signatories bans use of exposed poison baits and those chemicals that have been shown to cause significant avian mortalities
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	All	All	Second	Medium	Governments	The relevant legislation of all Signatories requires power line design to avoid electrocution
1.5 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	All	All	Second	Ongoing	Governments, law enforcement agencies and NGOs	Effective, proportionate and dissuasive penalties are implemented and a strategy to tackle illegal activities against birds of prey is introduced. Details are relayed to Secretariat and included in national reports
1.6 Identify gaps in existing MEAs where bird-of prey protection and conservation can be improved and	All	All	Third	Immediate	CMS Secretariat / Governments / NGOs	Provisions of existing MEAs strengthened with respect to bird-of prey protection and conservation

Activities	Species	Countries	Priority Level	Time-scale	Organisations	Target
draw these to the attention of the relevant Secretariat and other Parties						
Activity 2: Protect and/or manage important sites and flyways						
2.1 Designate nationally and internationally important sites (including those listed in Table 3) as protected areas with management plans or as appropriately managed sites taking bird-of-prey conservation requirements into account	All	All countries	Second	Medium	Governments, BirdLife International and site stakeholders	All important sites have conservation measures in place
2.2 Undertake 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 and any other sites holding significant populations of Category 1 and 2 species	Cat 1 and 2	All	Third	Medium	Governments, forestry, energy and infrastructure sectors	National EIA regulations require EIAs for projects impacting bird-of-prey sites; results of specialist studies relating to the impacts on birds of prey in EIAs relayed to the Secretariat and included in national reports
2.3 Conduct risk analysis at important sites (including those listed in Table 3) 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)	Cat 1 and 2	All	Third	Ongoing	Governments and land managers	Incidental mortality of birds of prey reduced to insignificant levels
2.4 Conduct Strategic Environmental Assessments of planned significant infrastructure developments within major flyways to identify key risk areas	All	All countries with bottleneck sites	Third	Medium	Governments	SEAs carried out and results relayed to the Secretariat and included in national reports
Activity 3: Habitat conservation and sustainable management						
3.1 Survey, maintain and restore natural vegetation cover in former habitats (especially grasslands) in the range of globally threatened species	Cat. 1	All range states of Cat. 1 species	Third	Long	Government, land managers	Inventories of grassland areas supporting Cat. 1 species prepared and at least 30% of former grassland habitats having natural vegetation cover and under sustainable management

Activities	Species	Countries	Priority Level	Time-scale	Organisations	Target
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	All species	All	Second	Medium	Governments, energy and infrastructure sectors	Highest risk power lines modified to avoid bird of prey electrocution
3.3 Endeavour to facilitate feeding opportunities for necrophagous birds of prey as far as it is possible taking into account sanitary considerations	All relevant species	All relevant countries	Second	Short	Governments in collaboration with relevant NGOs	Feeding stations established as appropriate and feasible
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	All	All	Second	Ongoing	Governments and relevant sectors and organisations	Conservation of birds of prey is integrated in sectors and corresponding policies
Activity 4: Raise awareness of problems faced by birds of prey and measures needed to conserve them						
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	All species	All countries	Second	Short	Governments in collaboration with NGOs	Programme implemented, and conservation needs of birds of prey widely understood amongst public
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	All species	All	Second	Medium	Governments in collaboration with NGOs	Programme implemented, and conservation needs of birds of prey widely understood amongst government departments
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	All species	All countries	Third	Medium	Governments in collaboration with NGOs	Programme implemented, and conservation needs of birds of prey widely understood by teachers and taught in schools

Activities	Species	Countries	Priority Level	Time-scale	Organisations	Target
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	All species	All countries with bottleneck sites	Second	Short	Governments and NGOs	Programme implemented, and conservation needs of birds of prey known within bottleneck sites
4.5 Organise sub-regional and national training workshops to improve skills in the monitoring of birds of prey	All species	All countries	Second	Medium	Governments and relevant NGOs	Training programmes established
4.6 Educate and raise awareness of local communities to the importance of birds of prey, and the need to monitor and protect them	All species	All countries	Second	Medium	Governments and relevant NGOs	Training programmes established
Activity 5: Monitor bird of prey populations, carry out conservation research and take appropriate remedial measures						
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	All	To be defined	First	Immediate	Governments, Birdlife International, national ornithological and relevant research organisations	Monitoring network established and adopted by Signatories
5.2 Design and undertake a coordinated monitoring programme and develop monitoring protocols based on the monitoring network established under 5.1	All	To be defined	First	Ongoing	Governments, Birdlife International, national ornithological and relevant research organisations	Monitoring guidelines / manual prepared for national and transboundary data collection; data relayed to the Secretariat and included in national reports; breeding and migratory population trends reliably established
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	Cat. 1 and 2 species	All countries	Second	Medium	Appropriate NGOs and research organisations	Habitat problems and required mitigation measures identified and addressed
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;	Cat. 1 and 2 species	All countries	First	Medium	Governments, appropriate NGOs and research organisations	Toxic chemical and heavy metal problems assessed and mitigation measures identified if required and addressed

Activities	Species	Countries	Priority Level	Time-scale	Organisations	Target
identify and then implement appropriate measures to assist in achieving and maintaining Favourable Conservation Status						
5.5 Monitor power line and wind farm impacts on birds of prey, including through analysis of existing data such as ringing data	All species	All relevant countries	First	Ongoing	Governments, NGOs, relevant research organisations, and energy sectors	Programmes established to monitor the impacts of power lines and wind farms
5.6 Undertake research into the desirability of reintroducing 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	All relevant species	All countries	Second	Short	Governments, NGOs and relevant conservation organisations	Re-introduction projects investigated and implemented where found to bring conservation benefit
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	Cat. 1 and 2 species	All relevant countries	Second	Long	Governments, NGOs and relevant conservation organisations	Appropriate programmes established
5.8 Assess the scale of harvests so as to evaluate the implications for the populations concerned	All species	All countries	Second	Medium	Governments, NGOs and relevant conservation organisations	Systems of recording and reporting harvests established
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	All species	All countries	Second	Medium	Governments and relevant research organisations	Effective disease surveillance programmes in place
5.10 Initiate collaborative research into the effects of climate change on birds of prey and their habitats, and implement appropriate adaptation measures	All species	All countries	Second	Medium	Governments, NGOs and relevant research organisations	Climate change impacts assessed and measures implemented to facilitate adaptation
Activity 6: Supporting measures						
6.1 Prepare National, Regional or Sub-Regional strategies, or equivalent documents, for birds of prey (taking	Cat. 1 and 2 species	All	Second	Immediate	Governments, national ornithological organisations	National, Regional or sub-regional strategies, or equivalent documents, describing how this Action Plan will be

Activities	Species	Countries	Priority Level	Time-scale	Organisations	Target
into account the need for collaborative trans-boundary measures with adjacent Signatory States)						implemented with particular regard for Cat. 1 and Cat. 2 species, submitted to the Secretariat before the First Meeting of Signatories
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	Cat. 1 species	All range states of Cat. 1 species	First	Medium	Governments, Birdlife International, national ornithological & relevant research organisations	Conservation plans developed, approved and being implemented for all globally threatened species
6.3 Update Tables 1 and 3 according to new information emerging from the monitoring programme	All	All	Third	Ongoing	Secretariat	On the basis of information collected and collated from the Signatories, the Secretariat proposes amendments to Tables 1 and 3 of this Action Plan for approval by the Signatories
6.4 Encourage Signatories to improve international cooperation through organising conferences, seminars and workshops concerning monitoring, scientific research and conservation activities	All	All	Second	Ongoing	Secretariat	Effective programmes of international cooperation established

Table 3: Provisional list of Important Bird Areas that are currently known to be important congregatory bird of prey sites in Africa and Eurasia

[To be presented separately by BirdLife International].