

Assessment of the merits of an instrument under the Convention on Migratory Species covering migratory raptors in the African-Eurasian Region



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Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London SW1P 3JR
Telephone 020 7238 6000
Website: www.defra.gov.uk

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Assessment of the merits of an Instrument under the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) covering Migratory Raptors in the African- Eurasian Region

Final Report with Draft MoU and Action Plan

September 2005

Prepared by

Paul Goriup, NatureBureau
Graham Tucker, Ecological Solutions

For the

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Global Wildlife Division
Zone 1/14C Temple Quay House
Bristol BS1 6EB

The NatureBureau Ltd
36 Kingfisher Court, Hambridge Road
Newbury RG14 5SJ

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Andrew Williams (DEFRA, Chair)
Eric Blencowe (DEFRA)
Nick Williams (DEFRA)
David Stroud (JNCC)
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ABBREVIATIONS

AEWA	Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds.
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CMS	(Bonn) Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
EC DG	European Commission Directorate General
ETS	European Threat Status, as defined by BirdLife International
EU	European Union
FAO	UN Food and Agriculture Organisation
FCS	Favourable Conservation Status, as defined under CMS
GROMS	Global Register of Migratory Species
IBA	Important Bird Area, as defined by BirdLife International
IGO	Intergovernmental Organisation
IUCN	World Conservation Union (International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources)
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
MEA	Multi-lateral Environmental Agreement
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
SPEC	Species of European Conservation Concern, as defined by BirdLife International
UCS	Unfavourable Conservation Status, as defined under the CMS
WWGBP	World Working Group on Birds of Prey and Owls

1 SUMMARY

Of all groups of birds, the predatory species have always attracted man's special attention for their grace of flight and perceived qualities of speed, agility and strength: even today, eagles and falcons, for example, feature in the national regalia of many countries. Collectively known as *raptors*, birds like eagles, buzzards, hawks, falcons, vultures and owls are characterised by their relatively long lifespans, low reproductive rates and general scarcity – all stemming from their high position in the food web. Unfortunately, these elegant evolutionary adaptations also make raptors particularly vulnerable to rapid changes in their environment.

Ever since the mid-1960s, when peregrine falcon numbers across Eurasia and North America were decimated because of the use of persistent agricultural pesticides that, through their prey, accumulated in their bodies, thinned their egg shells and reduced their breeding success, there has been widespread concern over the status of raptors. In Europe, where monitoring schemes have a long history, many raptors have clearly experienced significant (and in some cases, severe) range contractions and population decreases.

Research has shown that raptors face many threats. The most important derive from intensive land use practices that reduce prey availability and suitable breeding habitat. However, other factors alone or in combination can also negatively affect raptors under various circumstances. These factors include: environmental pollution, pest control poisoning, trophy shooting, capture and trade for falconry, collisions with and electrocution by overhead power-lines, general disturbance, and the looming threats from climate change. Moreover, migratory raptors require adequate networks of suitable habitat along their migration paths, and many species tend to congregate at land-bridges, mountain passes and along coastlines where they are especially prone to intensive hunting and trapping.

The cumulative evidence of national or regional declines of raptors, increasing pressures on their populations, and apparent failings in current conservation measures to redress the situation, led the VI World Conference on Birds of Prey and Owls (Budapest, May 2003) to adopt a resolution proposing the establishment of a new multilateral agreement for the conservation of African-Eurasian migratory raptors, under the auspices of the Bonn Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals.

This resolution was taken up by the UK Government's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), which suggested to the CMS Scientific Council that a study of the merits of developing a new instrument on raptors should be undertaken in time for the next Conference of Parties to be held in Nairobi, 16-25 November 2005. The suggestion was endorsed, and this report contains the results from the study commissioned by DEFRA and carried out by the NatureBureau.

The overall aim of the study was to “assess whether or not an international agreement to conserve migratory raptors [including owls] should be established under the auspices of the CMS in the African-Eurasian region”. In particular the study should “examine the merits and drawbacks of a CMS agreement in the region and result in a fully reasoned recommendation on whether or not such an agreement should be established.”

1.1 Area and Species Covered

The study started by determining which raptors regularly occur in the Palearctic and Afrotropical realms – yielding a total of 211 species. A more detailed assessment was then carried out to identify which of these regularly undertook migratory movements of more than 100 km at some point in their annual cycle within the Afrotropical realm or Western

Paleartic. The aggregate range of these populations was then defined as the African-Eurasian region for the purposes of the study.

1.2 African-Eurasian Migratory Raptor Status Review

Having established the area and species to be covered, the current status of the species concerned and the threats facing them was reviewed in some depth. This involved consulting recently published literature, interrogating the BirdLife International World Bird Database, and correspondence with an expert panel comprising raptor researchers who had extensive direct experience in the African-Eurasian region. The review resulted in the production of a *Status report on raptors in the African-Eurasian region* (Tucker and Goriup, August 2005), referred to as the Raptor Status Report (available separately from DEFRA).

The review revealed that out of 211 raptor species in the African-Eurasian region, 74 are migratory and of these seven are globally threatened and a further three near threatened. The ten species concerned are:

Species	English Name
<i>Milvus milvus</i>	Red Kite
<i>Aegypius monachus</i>	Cinereous Vulture
<i>Circus maureus</i>	Black Harrier
<i>Circus macrourus</i>	Pallid Harrier
<i>Aquila clanga</i>	Greater Spotted Eagle
<i>Aquila adalberti</i>	Spanish Imperial Eagle
<i>Aquila heliaca</i>	Imperial Eagle
<i>Falco naumanni</i>	Lesser Kestrel
<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	Red-footed Falcon
<i>Falco cherrug</i>	Saker Falcon

All these raptors, apart from the black harrier, are intercontinental migrants, breeding primarily within the Western Palearctic. However, this finding might partly reflect inadequate knowledge of the population status of some inter-African migrants and whether or not some threatened species are migratory.

In Europe, analysis of the population trends of migratory raptors indicates that nearly a third are declining rapidly: by more than 1% per annum. Furthermore, 21% have suffered large declines averaging over 3% per year in the last 10 years. Sadly, there is very little accurate knowledge about the status of raptor populations (breeding and wintering) in much of Asia, the Middle East and Africa. Although there are numerous counts of raptors at particular sites, it is difficult to assimilate them and deduce likely population trends for most species. However, it seems that some species other than those listed above, including tawny eagle *Aquila rapax* and African swallow-tailed kite *Chelictinia riocourii*, are less numerous than in the recent past.

Overall, it is clear that at least 32 (53%) of African-Eurasian migratory raptor species have an unfavourable conservation status at a global or regional level. Thus, an undesirably high proportion of migratory raptors are facing situations that warrant conservation intervention. In contrast with some other migratory bird groups already covered by special Bonn Convention instruments (albatrosses, waterfowl, cranes and bustards), migratory raptors as a group have no specific international conservation action plan at present despite all of them being included in Appendix II of the Convention.

1.3 Threats to Migratory Raptor Populations

According to currently available information, it appears that the following are likely to be the key threats to raptor populations over the coming ten years:

- Habitat loss and degradation (which is the most frequent threat to raptor populations, and is probably the root cause of unfavourable conservation status in most species), in particular habitat loss as a result of agricultural expansion, agricultural intensification, overgrazing of remaining natural grasslands (particularly in the Middle-East and Africa) and wetland loss.
- Shooting of migrating raptors, especially in the Middle-East, for sport and trophies.
- Accidental poisoning (e.g. through the use of poison baits to control feral dogs, jackals and wolves).
- Electrocution by power lines.
- Deliberate persecution of raptors (e.g. shooting and destruction of nests to protect game).
- Disturbance of breeding birds (e.g. by tourism, forestry and agricultural activities).

Collisions with wind turbines could become a significant future problem as a rapid expansion of wind farms is occurring within raptor migration routes. In the longer term, climate change will pose an additional major threat to migratory raptors and exacerbate existing human induced changes throughout the region because, as habitats and the timing of biological events change, migration strategies may be disrupted.

Of particular importance to migratory raptors are those places where they (and other soaring birds) congregate, usually to minimise a sea-crossing or avoid a high mountain range. An important site in this regard is one where at least 3,000 raptors regularly pass on spring or autumn migration. BirdLife International has identified at least 100 such sites in the study area as part of their inventory of Important Bird Areas. However, the legal security and conservation of many of these sites could be greatly improved: only just over half the sites have any form of protection status and only 20 sites have a good level of protection.

1.4 Potential for a New CMS Instrument for Migratory Raptors

In parallel with the status review, the current international conservation measures established by relevant multi-lateral environmental agreements (MEAs) were examined with specific regard to migratory raptors, and the potential role for a new instrument under CMS evaluated. The strengths, weaknesses, opportunities for and threats to different types of CMS instrument were also analysed.

There are eleven multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) that have (or could have) significant relevance for the conservation of raptors (whether migratory or resident) and/or their habitats in the African-Eurasian region, namely:

Broad ecosystem / environmental MEAs

European Landscape Conservation
Convention on Biological Diversity
Climate Change Convention
Convention to Combat Desertification

Nature conservation MEAs

EC Birds Directive
EC Habitats Directive
Bern Convention
African Convention
Ramsar Convention
CITES
Bonn Convention

Our review of these MEAs showed that they provide a panoply of interlocking (if not partially overlapping) legislation that, in principle, covers all the threats faced by migratory raptors in the African-Eurasian region. However, it is also apparent that these arrangements are currently not sufficient to prevent declines in migratory raptor populations in Africa and Eurasia mainly because there is a lack of a unifying international plan of action that leads to concerted efforts for their conservation. Only the Bonn Convention provides a mechanism for

formulating and implementing such an international plan of action that can coordinate and integrate the application of existing MEAs and address and remaining gaps.

1.5 New Bonn Convention Instrument Consultation Exercise

A consultation document was prepared (in English and French) that set out the main options and additional opportunities for improving the conservation status of African-Eurasian migratory raptors. The consultation document, together with the Raptor Status Report, were posted on the study website and distributed among the following interest groups, whose responses were actively solicited:

- Bonn Convention Focal Points (Ministries and government agencies)
- Secretariats of other relevant MEAs
- Researchers
- Non-governmental conservation organisations (NGOs)

This exercise, together with the background documentation, was welcomed by the Bonn Convention Secretariat as an innovative approach for developing new instruments. It elicited 60 responses from a total of 35 range states which, while neither comprehensive nor official, strongly supported the findings of the Raptor Status Report, namely (i) that few migratory owls have an unfavourable conservation status at present; (ii) that a high proportion of migratory African-Eurasian raptors have an unsatisfactory conservation status; and (iii) some 90% of the respondents supported the proposition that migratory raptors would benefit from a new Bonn Convention instrument to improve their conservation status. With regard to the latter finding, the main reasons for not supporting the proposition were based on concerns about diverting attention from implementing existing conventions, and the length of time that it takes to agree new CMS Agreements.

The general preference among respondents (whether official agencies or non-government bodies) on the form of a new instrument was for a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding, accompanied by an Action Plan. The consultation did not seek reasons for preferences but respondents presumably based their judgements on the analysis of strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities (SWOT) of different options presented in Table 11. Perhaps the most important advantages of an MoU are its non-binding nature and relatively rapid pace of adoption.

1.6 Conclusions and Recommendations

The Raptor Status Review provides clear evidence for concern about the current status of at least 32 species of migratory raptors in Africa and Eurasia, that for most species the situation is not improving over time, and indeed many other species may also be shown to be in an unfavourable status once more detailed studies are carried out in Asia, the Middle East and Africa.

An assessment of the provisions of existing applicable MEAs showed that despite apparently comprehensive coverage, they were failing to conserve migratory raptors largely owing to a lack of focus, resources and coordination.

The consultation exercise for a possible new instrument under the Bonn Convention indicated an appreciation of the problems faced by migratory raptors in Africa and Eurasia, and the need to take rapid actions. It also demonstrated broad support for the establishment of a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding with an Action Plan in order to facilitate urgent concerted actions among Range States to address these problems.

We therefore recommend that a draft Memorandum of Understanding with an Action Plan should be prepared for further consideration by the next Conference of Parties of the Bonn Convention, and further that it should:

- reiterate and strengthen calls for actions under existing MEAs where appropriate;
- focus on diurnal migratory birds of prey of the African-Eurasian region but also include owls;
- cover all raptors in the Africa-Eurasia region, prioritised according to their conservation status;
- only cover truly migratory raptor species that regularly occur within the African-Eurasian region;
- apply to the aggregate range of all migratory raptors (excluding States that are only visited by migrating Amur falcons *Falco amurensis*) that regularly occur within the Afrotropical or Western Palearctic realms at some point in their annual cycle;
- focus on key transboundary actions that will address the key threats to migratory raptors;
- promote activities that raise awareness of migratory raptors and their problems;
- monitor raptor populations throughout the region;
- identify regions where actions should be taken, and priorities and responsibilities for their implementation.

We consider that the main problems that a new MoU will face in delivering conservation benefits for raptors are as follows:

- obtaining the necessary number and type of signatory range states to make it operational, bearing in mind some have reservations over their existing burdens;
- implementing the MoU given that it has no formal legal standing or budget and therefore depends for effectiveness entirely on the goodwill of the participating states;
- maintaining a high level of coordination and support given the number of species and wide geographic range since the Secretariat is provided by the Convention Secretariat and the level of input will depend on the resources available to them and other programme priorities;
- possible confusion with the existing AEWA.

It is therefore recommended that, if the Conference of Parties supports the establishment of a new MoU and Action Plan for African-Eurasian Migratory Raptors, then an ad hoc consortium of range states should be formed to parent the MoU in consultation with the Convention Secretariat.

Finally, on the assumption that a Memorandum of Understanding and Action Plan along the lines of that proposed in the Attachment to this report is adopted, an estimate of the incremental cost estimation for implementing them over a five year period amounts to US\$1,970,000. While this sum is rather higher than for other existing Bonn Convention Memoranda, it should be borne in mind that this one covers by far the greatest number of range states and species. Moreover, in global conservation terms, the amount is quite modest and could be raised through fostering private / public partnerships and by in-kind or offset contributions.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background

There is widespread concern over the deteriorating status of many bird species, a high proportion of which now face the risk of global extinction (BirdLife International 2004b, c). In Europe, significant regional range contractions and declines have occurred in recent times (BirdLife International 2004a). Raptors¹ may be particularly at risk because they are generally large, long-lived species with low reproductive rates – characteristics that appear to be associated with high extinction risk (Bennett & Owens 1997). Species with low fecundity are particularly susceptible to factors that increase their adult mortality rates (Newton 1979). Furthermore, such species take a long time to recover from losses, which lengthens the time over which reduced populations may be at risk from catastrophic chance events. Furthermore, as predators, many raptor species are naturally scarce, which exacerbates their vulnerability to threats.

And indeed, raptors face many threats. The most important derive from intensive land use practices that reduce prey availability and suitable breeding habitat, but pollution, poisoning, hunting, persecution, illegal taking and trade (e.g. for falconry), collisions with and electrocution by overhead power-lines, and general disturbance all impact on raptors (Thiollay 1994; White *et al.* 1994). Moreover, migratory raptors require adequate networks of suitable habitat along their migration paths, and many species tend to congregate at land-bridges, mountain passes and along coastlines where they are especially prone to intensive hunting and trapping (Zalles & Bildstein 2000).

The cumulative evidence of national or regional declines of raptors, increasing pressures on their populations, and apparent failings in current conservation measures to redress the situation, has led to calls for better conservation action, especially for the migratory species. As a result, the VI World Conference on Birds of Prey and Owls (convened in Budapest, 18-23 May 2003, by the World Working Group on Birds of Prey and Owls) adopted a resolution (see Annex 1) proposing the establishment of a new multilateral agreement for African-Eurasian migratory raptors, under the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals² (CMS).

The WWGBP resolution was subsequently considered by the CMS Scientific Council, which endorsed a proposal from the UK Government's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) to conduct a study of the merits of developing a new instrument on raptors. The results would be presented at the next Conference of Parties to be held in Nairobi, 16-25 November 2005.

In January 2005, the NatureBureau was commissioned to carry out the study, and the results are presented in this report.

¹ In this study "raptor" refers to all birds of prey, including owls, i.e. species in the Orders Falconiformes and Strigiformes.

² Also known as the Bonn Convention.

2.2 Study on the merits of a new CMS instrument for raptors

2.2.1 Overall Aims and Objectives

The overall aim of the study was to “assess whether or not an international agreement to conserve migratory raptors [including owls] should be established under the auspices of the CMS in the African-Eurasian region”. In particular the study should “examine the merits and drawbacks of a CMS agreement in the region and result in a fully reasoned recommendation on whether or not such an agreement should be established.”

The study had the following objectives:

- Identify the threats facing migratory raptors in the region and explain to what extent an international agreement would make a difference in tackling them.
- Assess whether or not there is an appetite within the countries of the region for a new agreement, and how this might affect its implementation should one be established.
- Identify the problems an agreement (should it be established) would initially face in delivering a conservation benefit, and how they might be overcome.
- Advise on the general level of financing needed by the agreement, should it be established, to deliver a conservation benefit.
- Explain how an agreement should dovetail with other international agreements established to conserve raptors to ensure synergistic benefits, should it be established.
- If an agreement is to be recommended, draw up a draft version, with an associated Action Plan, explaining the reasons for:
 - it being either a formal Agreement under Article IV.3 or an informal agreement (a Memorandum of Understanding) under Article IV.4 of CMS;
 - species that should be covered and commenting on whether or not other birds of prey, such as owls, should be included;
 - the geographic boundaries of the region that should be covered; and
 - the contents of the Action Plan, which identifies actions that should be undertaken collectively as well as separately by individual countries.

2.2.2 Study Methods

Area and species covered

The study started by considering all raptors regularly occurring in the Palearctic and Afrotropical realms, as defined in Newton (2003). A more detailed assessment was then carried out of the migratory raptors populations that regularly occur at some point in their annual cycle within the Afrotropical realm³ or Western Palearctic, as defined by Cramp *et al.* (1977-93). The aggregate range of these populations then define the area of the eventual CMS instrument if adopted (see Attachment: Appendix 1). This range is referred to hereafter in this report as the African-Eurasian region.

It was envisaged that the CMS raptor instrument would be applicable to any raptor species that meets the CMS migratory definition i.e. “... *the entire population or any geographically separate part of the population of any species or lower taxon of wild animals, a significant proportion of whose members cyclically and predictably cross one or more national jurisdictional boundaries.*”

However, for practical reasons, the study was restricted to those species defined and listed⁴ as “True Migrants” in the Global Register of Migratory Species (GROMS) database. These

³ Including Madagascar and the archipelagos of Cape Verde, Comores and Seychelles

⁴ With a few revisions as documented in the Raptor Status Report

include partial migrants (species in which only part of the population migrates, with the rest remaining in the breeding areas) but omit those exhibiting “nomadising” or “range extension” behaviour. GROMS “True Migrants” also exclude species that technically meet the CMS migratory species definition because they regularly cross one or more national boundaries, but are only short-distance migrants that travel less 100 km.

This study follows the taxonomy, scientific nomenclature and English names used by BirdLife International, which serves as the IUCN Red Data Book authority for birds.

African-Eurasian raptor status review

Having established the area and species to be covered, the current status of the species concerned and the threats facing them was reviewed during March and April 2005. This involved consulting recently published literature, interrogating the BirdLife International World Bird Database, and correspondence with an expert panel with direct experience in the African-Eurasian region (see Acknowledgements). For the purposes of this study, the CMS definition of unfavourable conservation status (see Annex 2) was treated as equivalent to the threat categories used by BirdLife International for assessing the status of birds globally and regionally.

The review resulted in the production of a *Status report on raptors in the African-Eurasian region* (Tucker and Goriup 2005), hereafter referred to as the Raptor Status Report (the final version was completed in August 2005 and is available separately from DEFRA).

Potential for a new CMS instrument for migratory raptors

In parallel with the status review, the current international conservation measures established by relevant multi-lateral environmental agreements (MEAs) were examined with specific regard to migratory raptors, and the potential role for a new instrument under CMS evaluated. The strengths, weaknesses, opportunities for and threats to different types of CMS instrument were also analysed, with the assistance of the Secretariats of the CMS and Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Waterbirds (AEWA).

New CMS instrument consultation exercise

A consultation document was prepared that set out the main options and additional opportunities for improving the conservation status of African-Eurasian migratory raptors. The consultation document, together with the Raptor Status Report, were posted on the study website (www.naturebureau.co.uk/cmsraptors), and distributed in April 2005 among the following interest groups, whose responses were actively solicited:

- CMS Focal Points (Ministries and government agencies)
- Secretariats of other relevant MEAs
- Researchers
- Non-governmental conservation organisations (NGOs)

The results of the consultation exercise were documented in a consultation report in May 2005 (also posted on the web site).

Final Report

In August 2005, this Final Report was prepared that provides a summary of the main findings of the Raptor Status Report, the results of the consultation exercise, drafts of the recommended CMS MoU and Action Plan for the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Raptors, and a description of the problems to be addressed in order to achieve additional raptor conservation benefits.

STATUS OF AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY RAPTORS

2.3 Introduction

This and Chapters 4 and 5 provide an extended summary of the Raptor Status Report; the full document (available from the study website: www.naturebureau.co.uk/cmsraptors) should be consulted for additional information.

Using the area and species criteria set out in 2.2.2, a total of 211 species of raptors occur in the African and Palearctic realms (see Annex 3). Of these, 60 (51 diurnal raptors and 9 owls) are treated here as African-Eurasian migrants.

2.4 Globally Threatened Species

A numerical analysis of the global status of raptors in the African and East / West Palearctic realms is presented in Table 1. This shows that a total of 28 species are Globally Threatened, i.e. classified as Vulnerable (VU), Endangered (EN) or Critical (CR) by BirdLife International (2004c) according to the current IUCN Red List criteria (IUCN 2001). This represents 13.3% of the species complement, and is rather similar to the proportion, namely 12.4%, of all extant bird species listed as Globally Threatened (BirdLife International 2004b). As such, this result seems to run counter to the impression that raptors are more specially threatened globally than other migratory bird groups. For example, 95% of albatrosses and 60% of cranes are threatened. Nevertheless, 13% of raptors classified as Globally Threatened and a further 6.2% as Near Threatened is an undesirably high proportion that warrants conservation intervention. Unlike albatrosses and cranes, migratory raptors as a group have no specific international conservation action plan at present.

It is also apparent from Table 1 that the proportion of Globally Threatened non-migratory species is almost always higher than for migratory species; indeed, none of the ten species of migratory owls occurring in the Afrotropical and Palearctic realms is Globally Threatened (or Near Threatened). Yet, it has often been claimed (e.g. Owen & Black 1991; Salathe 1991) that migratory species are particularly vulnerable as a result of threats they face on migration. However, the relatively high proportions of threatened non-migratory raptors (and especially owls) may be due to a significant number of them having small ranges, because birds with small ranges tend to be more likely to qualify as Globally Threatened (BirdLife International 2004b). It might also be partly due to a high proportion of owls being restricted to primary tropical forest habitats, which are among the most highly threatened habitats (Groombridge & Jenkins 2002). Thus, if one were to compare species with comparable ranges and habitats, it might turn out that the proportion of Globally Threatened species is indeed higher amongst migratory species than non-migratory species. However, such an analysis was beyond the scope of the present study.

Table 1: Numerical analysis of Globally Threatened raptors occurring in the Afrotropical / Palearctic Realms

Group	East Palearctic	Afrotropical / West Palearctic	Afrotropical / Palearctic
All raptors (including owls)			
No. Species	44	167	211
No. Species Globally Threatened	4	25	28
% Species Globally Threatened	9.1%	15.0%	13.3%
Migratory			
No. Species	14	61	74
No. Species Globally Threatened	2	6	7
% Species Globally Threatened	14.3%	9.8%	9.5%
Non-migratory			
No. Species	30	106	137
No. Species Globally Threatened	2	19	21
% Species Globally Threatened	6.7%	17.9%	15.3%
Diurnal raptors			
No. Species	29	113	142
No. Species Globally Threatened	3	14	16
% Species Globally Threatened	10.3%	12.4%	11.3%
Migratory			
No. Species	13	52	64
No. Species Globally Threatened	2	6	7
% Species Globally Threatened	15.44%	11.5%	10.9%
Non-migratory			
No. Species	16	61	78
No. Species Globally Threatened	1	8	9
% Species Globally Threatened	6.3%	13.1%	11.5%
Owls			
No. Species	15	54	69
No. Species Globally Threatened	1	11	12
% Species Globally Threatened	6.7%	20.4%	17.4%
Migratory			
No. Species	1	9	10
No. Species Globally Threatened	0	0	0
% Species Globally Threatened	0%	0%	0%
Non-migratory			
No. Species	14	45	59
No. Species Globally Threatened	1	11	12
% Species Globally Threatened	7.1%	24.4%	20.3%

Source. BirdLife International World Bird Database (www.birdlife.org, accessed March 2005)

Note. Since some species have non-overlapping distributions, Afrotropical / Palearctic totals do not necessarily equal the sum of east Palearctic plus Afrotropical / West Palearctic totals.

Further details of the ten Globally or Near Threatened migratory raptors of the African-Eurasian region are given in Table 2. Countries where these species regularly occur are listed in Annex 4. Examination of the list shows that all migratory raptor species, except only for the black harrier *Circus maurus*, are intercontinental migrants, breeding primarily within the Western Palearctic. This finding might partly reflect inadequate knowledge of the population status of some inter-African migrants and the migratory behaviour of some threatened species.

Table 2: Globally Threatened and Near Threatened migratory raptors of the African-Eurasian region

Note: There are no Globally Threatened or Near Threatened migratory owls in the region

See below for global threat status categories

Species	English Name	Breeding range	Migratory Behaviour	Global Threat Status
<i>Milvus milvus</i>	Red Kite	Nominate race: S Sweden E to Ukraine and S through C Europe to W & C Mediterranean basin, Wales, Caucasus. <i>M. m. fasciicauda</i> : Cape Verde Islands.	Mainly migratory in N and C Europe, although increasing tendency to winter in these areas. Populations in S of range and Wales sedentary with varying degree of dispersal of juveniles. The vast majority of migrants winter in S France and especially Iberian Peninsula	NT
<i>Aegypius monachus</i>	Cinereous Vulture	Large Palearctic range from Spain, Balearic Is and Balkans through Turkey, Caucasus, Iran and Afghanistan to S Siberia, Mongolia, N China and extreme N India.	Partial – mainly intercontinental: In S Europe adults non-migratory, in C Asia semi-resident, often following nomads and their domestic herds. Partly migratory in Asia: most birds leave Mongolia and other N breeding areas for winter; migrants winter from NE Africa and Middle East through N India to Korea; some birds reach Arabia and S China.	NT
<i>Circus maurus</i>	Black Harrier	South Africa and N W Namibia, most in S Cape region.	Partial – intracontinental: Most birds migrate N in winter to dry grassland areas of S Namibia, S Botswana and N and C South Africa.	VU
<i>Circus macrourus</i>	Pallid Harrier	E. European Russia, S Asiatic Russia and N. Kazakhstan E to NW China; irregularly breeds farther N and W.	Intercontinental: Migratory, wintering mainly in sub-Saharan Africa, Indian Subcontinent, Sri Lanka and Burma; rare, or much less common, in Mediterranean Basin, Middle East, Arabia, Iran and S & E China; some birds may remain in S of breeding range. Migrates on broad front.	NT
<i>Aquila clanga</i>	Greater Spotted Eagle	EC Europe E through Russia to S far east, isolated populations in N Iran and NC India.	Intercontinental: winters in S Europe, Middle East, NE Africa and S Asia.	VU
<i>Aquila adalberti</i>	Spanish Imperial Eagle	C, W & S Spain, formerly more widespread, occurring in Portugal and Morocco	Partial: Adults sedentary. Young birds, when independent, disperse from natal areas in all directions and up to 350 km, especially to NW Africa.	VU
<i>Aquila heliaca</i>	Imperial Eagle	C Europe and Turkey E through S Russia to Lake Baikal and Mongolia.	Mostly migratory, intercontinental. Birds migrate to S Turkey, Iran, Israel, Syria, Iraq, Egypt, Arabia, and northeast Africa, and to Pakistan, India, Laos and Vietnam.	VU
<i>Falco naumanni</i>	Lesser Kestrel	SW Europe and N Africa E through E Europe, Asia Minor, Caucasus, Iran, Jordan, Israel, Kazakhstan, S Russia to Mongolia and N	Intercontinental: Mainly trans-Saharan migrant, although some birds winter in NW Africa and in various regions of S Europe and S Asia. Most birds migrate to S Africa. Nomadic movements in winter related to local concentrations of	VU

Species	English Name	Breeding range	Migratory Behaviour	Global Threat Status
		China.	insects. Migrates across broad front.	
<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	Red-footed Falcon	E Europe and Hungary, E through NC Asia to extreme NW China and upper R Lena	Intercontinental: Travels great distances from Palearctic breeding areas across the Mediterranean and through Africa to S African wintering areas.	NT
<i>Falco cherrug</i>	Saker Falcon	C and SE Europe, Turkey, Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, China and Mongolia	Intercontinental: migratory or partially migratory; sedentary or dispersive in S and SW of breeding range. Only occurs in winter in N Pakistan, Arabia, Africa (Sudan, Ethiopia, Niger and N Kenya) and parts of Middle East and China.	EN

Sources. Range: Snow and Perrins (1998). Migration behaviour: adapted from GROMS based on del Hoyo *et al.* (1994). Global Threat: BirdLife International World Bird Database www.birdlife.org (accessed 20 June 2005).

Globally Threatened Status Codes

Code	Category	Definition*
CR	Critically endangered	Considered to be facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild
EN	Endangered	Considered to be facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild
VU	Vulnerable	Considered to be facing a high risk of extinction in the wild
NT	Near threatened	Close to qualifying for or is likely to qualify for a threatened category in the near future

*From the IUCN Red List 2004 categories: see http://www.redlist.org/info/categories_criteria2001.html#categories

2.5 The regional status of raptors

2.5.1 The status of raptors in Europe

The status of birds in Europe is relatively well known as a result of fairly extensive and detailed atlas surveys and monitoring programmes, and two recent pan-European assessments of available data (BirdLife International 2004a; Tucker & Heath 1994). It is thus possible to review the status of raptor populations in detail and with some confidence, although trends in a few species, such as Levant Sparrowhawk *Accipiter brevipes*, remain relatively poorly known.

On the basis of the 1994 assessment, Stroud (2003) noted that a high proportion of European raptors have an unfavourable status in Europe (defined in the publication as being species that are declining, rare or localised). This showed that nearly 80% (30 of 38) of diurnal raptors were in an unfavourable conservation status, whilst almost half of the owls (six of 13 species) were similarly categorised.

In this study, we have reviewed the BirdLife International 2004 assessment of each raptor species, and compared overall population trends between the periods 1970-90 and 1990-2000. The European conservation status and European Threat Status (ETS) of each raptor species is given in Annex 5 and summarised for the group as a whole in Table 3.

BirdLife International defines three categories of Species of European Conservation Concern (SPEC), as follows:

- SPEC 1 – Species of Global Conservation Concern, i.e. classified as Globally Threatened, Near Threatened or Data Deficient (BirdLife International 2004c; IUCN 2004).
- SPEC 2 – Species that are concentrated⁵ in Europe and have an unfavourable conservation status.
- SPEC 3 – Species that are not concentrated in Europe but have an unfavourable conservation status.

We consider that the concept of unfavourable conservation status according to BirdLife International is equivalent to the CMS definition (see Annex 2). Thus, a species has an unfavourable conservation status in Europe if its population has any of the following characteristics:

- small and non-marginal;
- declining by more than 1% per year;
- depleted following earlier declines; or
- highly localised.

Depending on the rate of decline, population size and localisation, BirdLife International defines 10 categories of ETS. Seven of these categories include species in unfavourable status, namely: Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable, Declining, Rare, Depleted, and Localised. A species may be considered to be in a favourable status in three categories: Secure, Data Deficient or Not Evaluated.

⁵ i.e. more than 50% of its global breeding or wintering population or range occurs in Europe.

Table 3: The European conservation status of migratory raptors

SPEC = Species of European Conservation Concern. See Annex 5 for details of the status of individual species.

SPEC Category	Migratory raptors		All European species	
	Number	%	Number	%
1	8	17.0%	40	7.6%
2	5	10.6%	45	8.5%
3	16	31.9%	141	26.8%
Total SPEC	29	61.7%	226	43.0%
Non-SPEC	18	38.3%	300	57.0%
TOTAL	47		526	
European Threat Status				
Critical (CR)	1	2.1%	9	1.7%
Endangered (EN)	6	12.8%	20	3.8%
Vulnerable (VU)	5	10.6%	38	7.2%
Declining (D)	4	8.5%	62	11.8%
Rare (R)	9	19.1%	33	6.3%
Depleted (H)	4	8.5%	51	9.7%
Other (localised, data deficient, not evaluated)	0	-	12	2.3%
Secure (S)	18	38.3%	301	57.2%

Source: BirdLife International (2004a)

A comparison of the proportion of European migratory raptors that fall into each SPEC and ETS category with the overall European avifauna clearly indicates that they have a particularly high proportion with an unfavourable status in Europe: some 62% of migratory raptors have an unfavourable conservation status compared to 43% of all 526 regularly occurring European bird species. Furthermore, 12 (25%) of these are in high threat categories, with one Critical (pallid scops-owl *Otus brucei*), six Endangered and five Vulnerable.

An assessment of population trends in the European populations of migratory raptors (Table 4) also indicates that nearly a third are declining by more than 1% per annum. Furthermore, 21% have suffered large declines averaging over 3% per year in the last 10 years. Although this is a slightly lower percentage of species showing large declines than over the 1970-90 period, the proportion of species showing moderate declines has increased, and the overall proportion of species that have undergone moderate or large declines is unchanged. Thus there has been relatively little improvement in the status of European raptor populations since 1990.

Table 4: Population trends in European migratory raptors

Trend ^{*1}	% of raptors (n = 47) in trend class	
	1970–1990	1990–2000
Large increase (≥ 3 % per year)	15%	6%
Moderate increase (1-3% per year)	8%	13%
Small increase ^{*2} (<1% per year)	na	6%
Stable ^{*3}	40%	23%
Small decline ^{*2} (<1% per year)	na	6%
Moderate decline (1-3% per year)	2%	10%
Large decline (≥ 3 per year)	29%	21%
Fluctuating	0%	8%
Unknown	4%	4%
Total % in moderate or large decline	31%	31%

Sources. 1970-1990 trends: Tucker and Heath (1994). 1990-2000 trends: BirdLife International (2004a).

Notes: *1 Based on worst case scenario calculation taking into account the effects of calculations using minimum and maximum population estimates. *2 This trend category was not distinguished in 1994. *3 Only distinguished if <10% decline and < 10% increase, and worst-case and best-case scenario trends are in opposite directions.

2.5.2 The status of raptors in Asia, the Middle-East and Africa

Unfortunately, our knowledge of the current status of raptors in Asia, the Middle-East and Africa is much less complete and reliable than in Europe. Few countries in these regions have prepared bird atlases or established bird monitoring schemes. Where atlases have been produced they have yet to be repeated, and where monitoring schemes have been established they have not been undertaken for long enough to establish trends over a meaningful period. Further systematic monitoring and research is required over huge areas before reliable assessments of population status can be made for most species.

Intensive surveys and monitoring of diurnal raptor migration has been undertaken in some parts of the Middle-East, especially in Israel for several decades. These surveys have established population counts for several species that are difficult to census on their breeding grounds, such as Levant sparrowhawk *Accipiter brevipes*. They have also built up a considerable amount of data on migrant numbers, which have recently been analysed for trends (e.g. see Shirihihi *et al.* 2000 for review). These counts have noted sharp declines in lesser spotted eagle *Aquila pomarina* and steppe eagle *Aquila nipalensis* that accord with observed declines in Europe, and suggest that declines may have also occurred in Asia. Information on numbers and trends of breeding populations elsewhere in the Middle-East is very fragmentary and incomplete, although recoveries have been documented of some species' populations since the widespread reduction of use of persistent pesticides.

There is very little knowledge about the status of raptor populations (breeding and wintering) in much of Asia and Africa. Although there are numerous counts of raptors at particular sites, it is difficult to assimilate them and deduce likely population trends in most species. Detailed studies have been carried out in parts of in South Africa (e.g. Tarboton & Allan 1984), or from atlas surveys (e.g. Harrison *et al.* 1997) or from road counts (e.g. Herremans & Herremans-Tonnoeyr 2001) where population trends have been established for breeding species and some highly aggregated wintering populations, e.g. lesser kestrel *Falco naumanni*. In parts of West Africa, Thiollay (in press-a; in press-b; in press-c) has repeated roadside counts some 30 years later to measure population changes. But care needs to be taken in extrapolating trends from such relatively well studied areas to other parts of Africa. Nevertheless, observed declines are a cause for concern and, in accordance with the precautionary principle, justify

the need for conservation actions now. The results of many of these studies also highlight the need for further monitoring of raptor populations in parts of Africa that are less well known.

In parts of Asia, detailed studies have been carried out on some species of high conservation importance, such as saker falcon *Falco cherrug* (Galushin & Moseikin 2000; Galushin 2004; Gott *et al.* 2000; Levin *et al.* 2000; Shijirmaa *et al.* 2000). But the status of most species is very poorly understood in most areas of the Asian Palearctic.

An overall summary of our status assessments of African-Eurasian migratory raptor populations in Asia, the Middle-East and Africa is provided in Table 5. This analysis confirms that it is not possible within the scope of this study to reliably assess the status of most of the species' breeding populations in these regions using readily available published studies. However, a number of Asian populations are known or suspected to be in an Unfavourable Conservation Status, including some Globally Threatened or Near Threatened species such pallid harrier *Circus macrourus*, saker falcon *Falco cherrug* and probably imperial eagle *Aquila heliaca*. In general, we are unsure of the status of most intra-African migrants, though there is evidence of declines in some, including Tawny eagle (*Aquila rapax*), African swallow-tailed kite (*Chelictinia riocourii*) and the Globally Threatened black harrier (*Circus maurus*) (BirdLife International 2004c; Curtis *et al.* 2004; del Hoyo *et al.* 1994; Ferguson-Lees & Christie 2001; Harrison *et al.* 1997).

Table 5: The status of breeding populations of migratory raptors in Asia, the Middle East and Africa

Conservation Status (CMS definition)	Asia	Middle East	Africa
Unfavourable	1	1	4
Unfavourable (uncertain)	5	1	2
Favourable	2	0	0
Favourable (uncertain)	7	4	8
Unknown	30	11	17
Total	45	18	31

2.6 Conclusion

Despite the data limitations discussed above, it is clear that a very large proportion (53%) of African-Eurasian species of migratory raptor have an unfavourable conservation status at a global or regional level, and 10 of these are Globally Threatened or Near Threatened (see Annex 5). Furthermore, a high proportion of these species are in continued long-term or rapid population declines.

3 ANALYSIS OF THREATS TO AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY RAPTORS

3.1 General overview

There are many well-known and documented threats to raptors in the African-Eurasian region (e.g. Chancellor & Meyburg 1998; Meyburg & Chancellor 1989, 1994; Newton & Chancellor 1985; Salathe 1991; Thiollay 1994; Tucker & Evans 1997; Tucker & Heath 1994; White *et al.* 1994; Zalles & Bildstein 2000). These are reviewed in detail in the Raptor Status Report, in order to establish which threats appear to have the most significant detrimental effect on species populations, especially those with an unfavourable conservation status (see previous section). The Raptor Status Report review also attempts to distinguish between threats that apply to species while breeding and during migration / wintering to establish which species are subject to impacts at an international scale, and would therefore benefit from concerted international conservation actions.

Being mostly long-lived species with generally low annual productivity and slow maturity, raptors are particularly vulnerable to any threats that may increase mortality rates. However, although there is much general information on habitat loss and pollution, and many documented cases of persecution e.g. from hunting, there are few demographic studies (e.g. Newton 1979) that have established their effects on mortality and productivity rates, and hence overall population level impacts. Furthermore, where such studies have been carried out, the results may not be widely applicable to other regions and habitats. And in some cases threats may have changed since the studies were carried out. For example, many studies have documented the impacts of toxic pesticides on raptors through egg-shell thinning. But the levels of such pesticides have since declined substantially in most areas, and previous studies may therefore be of little value in predicting future trends.

There is also a paucity of published information on threats to migratory raptors in Asia, the Middle East and Africa. Therefore, the assessment of threats to species in these regions should be treated with caution, because we have only considered documented threats, rather than those that we may suspect occur (e.g. those that could be inferred from habitat change).

In this section, we have coded identified threats described in the Raptor Status Report according to the primary threat categories used by BirdLife International, which is based on the IUCN Authority File for threat types (see www.redlist.org), and defined sub-categories that are relevant to raptors in the region. Table 6 lists for each species the threats that we have identified as probably having a significant population impact, and a summary of their overall importance to raptors is presented in Table 7.

Table 6: Threats to migratory raptors of the African-Eurasian region that have Unfavourable Conservation Status

GS = Global status: see Table 2.1 for codes. **S = Season:** B = breeding; N (shaded) = non-breeding (migration and wintering areas).

Habitat Loss/Degradation: ai = loss to agriculture & agricultural intensification; aa = abandonment; og = over-grazing; fm = forest management and loss; af = afforestation (e.g. Eucalyptus, Poplar and conifer plantations); w = wetland loss and degradation; b = burning / fire; is = Infrastructure development.

Taking = taking of birds i.e. harvesting / hunting: t = trapping and trade (zoos, collections, falconry); e = egg-collection; s = shooting for sport.

Accidental mortality: C = collision; e = electrocution on power lines; p = poisoning; nd = nest destruction by agricultural machinery.

Per = Persecution (i.e. control of predators / pests) including deliberate poisoning.

Pollution (affecting habitat and/or species): l = Land pollution (other than pesticides); w = water pollution (other than pesticides); p = pesticides (i.e. direct and secondary toxicity effects, not indirect effects through food availability).

Dist = Disturbance (human).

Other: av = invasive alien vegetation; ls = lead-shot poisoning through ingestion of prey with high lead content; ns = nest site loss in old buildings; de = desertification from drought and over exploitation of wood; ip = introduced predators (e.g. rats and cats); pd = prey disease, i.e. myxomatosis and other diseases in rabbits.

[illegible]

				Habitat loss / degradation								Taking			Accidents				Per	Pollution			Dist	Other	Refs
Species	English Name	GS	S	ai	aa	og	fm	af	w	b	is	t	e	s	c	e	p	nd		l	w	p			
<i>Circus macrourus</i>	Pallid Harrier	NT	B	x	x	x			x								x		x			x			33,
			N	x		x								x								x		de	5,6, 33
<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>	Levant Sparrowhawk	LC	B	x																					
			N	x																					18
<i>Buteo rufinus</i>	Long-legged Buzzard	LC	B	x												x	x		x				x		
			N											x			x								
<i>Aquila pomarina</i>	Lesser Spotted Eagle	LC	B	x	x		x	x	x					x					x				x		22
			N	x																					16,18, 20,22,23
<i>Aquila clanga</i>	Greater Spotted Eagle	VU	B				x	x	x					x			x		x				x		24
			N											x											24
<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>	Steppe Eagle	LC	B	x												x			x			x	x		8,18,25,26
			N	x													x					x			20
<i>Aquila rapax</i>	Tawny Eagle	LC	B	x		x											x					x		de	5,20
			N	x										x			x					x		de	5,20
<i>Aquila adalberti</i>	Spanish Imperial Eagle	VU	B	x				x								x	x		x	x		x	x	ls,pd	1d,12,13
			N																						
<i>Aquila heliaca</i>	Imperial Eagle	VU	B	x			x	x				x				x	x		x				x		1c
			N											x			x								
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Golden Eagle	LC	B					x	x				x			x	x		x						11,14,15
			N												x		x								
<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>	Booted Eagle	LC	B	x			x			x						x			x			x			
			N											x			x					x			6
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Osprey	LC	B				x		x				x		x				x		x	x	x		32
			N											x	x				x		x	x			
<i>Falco naumanni</i>	Lesser Kestrel	VU	B	x	x			x			x		x	x										ns	1a
			N	x		x																			6,7
<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Common Kestrel	LC	B	x										x		x									
			N									x		x										de	
<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	Red-footed Falcon	NT	B	x					x													x			
			N	x					x					x											6
<i>Falco eleonora</i>	Eleonora's Falcon	LC	B																				x	ip	27
			N																						
<i>Falco biarmicus</i>	Lanner Falcon	LC	B	x								x	x						x				x		28

Species	English Name	GS	S	Habitat loss / degradation								Taking			Accidents				Per	Pollution			Dist	Other	Refs
				ai	aa	og	fm	af	w	b	is	t	e	s	c	e	p	nd		l	w	p			
			N									x					x								16,20
<i>Falco cherrug</i>	Saker Falcon	EN	B	x	x			x				x	x			x			x			x			2a,b,9,19,25,26,29, 30
			N									x													
<i>Falco rusticolus</i>	Gyr Falcon	LC	B									x	x						x				x		
			N																						
<i>Otus brucei</i>	Pallid Scops-owl	LC	B																						
			N																						
<i>Otus scops</i>	Common Scops-owl	LC	B	x																		x			
			N																						
<i>Nyctea scandiaca</i>	Snowy Owl	LC	B																				x		
			N																						
<i>Asio flammeus</i>	Short-eared Owl	LC	B	x				x	x																
			N																						

Sources.

General: BirdLife International (2004c); Brown, Urban & Newman (1982), del Hoyo *et al.* (1994, 1999), Ferguson-Lees *et al.* (2001); Tucker & Heath (1994); Tucker & Evans (1997).

Specific species references: 1a Biber (1996); 1b Heredia (1996a); 1c Heredia (1996b); 1d Gonzalez (1996); 2a (Barton 2002); 2b BirdLife (2001); 3 Krone (2003); 4 Harrison *et al.* (1997); 5 Barnes (2000); 6 Thiollay (1989); 7 Pepler (1996); 8 Flint *et al.* 1983, Lopushkov 1988; 9 Galushin (2004); 10 Mateo *et al.* (2003); 11 Whitfield *et al.* (2001); 12 Pain *et al.* (2005); 13 Ferrer (2003); 14 Watson (1992); 15 Marquis, Ratcliffe & Roxburgh (1985); 16 Shirihihi *et al.* (2000); 17 Tucker (2003); 18 Zalles & Bildstein (2000); 19 Chancellor & Meyburg (1998); 20a Hartley *et al.* (1996); 20b Hartley (1998); 21 Curtis *et al.* (2004); 22 Meyburg *et al.* (1999b); 23 Meyburg *et al.* (1995) 24 Meyburg *et al.* (1999a); 25 Fox (2004); 26 Batdelger & Potapov (2002); 27 Ristow (1999); 28 Gustin *et al.* (1990); 29 Karyakin *et al.* (2004); 30 Gombobaator *et al.* (2004); 31 (Ntampakis & Carter 2005); 32 (Saurola 1997); 33 Galushin *et al.* (2003).

Table 7: Summary of threats to migratory raptors of the African-Eurasian region that have an Unfavourable Conservation Status

Key. Magnitude of impacts: **Low** = unlikely to cause detectable population impacts in most species; **Moderate** = likely to cause local population impacts in most species, or population declines in some species; **High** = likely to cause population declines in most species. Blank = threat currently unknown in region.

Threat type (primary and secondary types)	% of species impacted ^{*1}		Magnitude of impacts ^{*2}			
	Breeding	Non-breeding	Europe	Asia	Middle-East	Africa
Habitat Loss/Degradation						
• Loss to agriculture & agricultural intensification	72	28	H	M	M?	H
• Abandonment	25	3	M	M	?	-
• Over-grazing	9	9	L	L	M?	H?
• Forest loss & management	16	0	M	L	L	M
• Afforestation	34	0	M	-	-	-
• Wetland loss and degradation	31	3	M	M	H	M
• Burning / fire	16	0	M	-	-	M
• Infrastructure development	6	0	M	-	M	-
Taking of birds (harvesting / hunting)						
• Trade (collections, falconry)	13	9	L	M	M	L
• Egg-collection	22	0	L	L	L	-
• Shooting and trapping	12	41	M	L	H	L
Accidental mortality^{*3}						
• Collision with man-made structures	9	9	L	L	L	L
• Electrocutation on power lines	31	0	M	H	L	L
• Poisoning (e.g. by baits for other species)	34	34	L	M	M	L (H in parts)
• Nest destruction	0	0	L	L	-	L
Persecution	59	6	L	M	M	L
Pollution						
• Land pollution ^{*4}	6	3	L	L	L	-
• Water pollution ^{*4}	6	6	L	L	L	L
• Toxic pesticides	44	28	L	M?	M?	M?
Disturbance (human)	50	0	H	L	M	M
Other						
• Invasive alien vegetation	3	3	L	?	?	?
• Lead-shot poisoning	3	3	L	-	?	-
• Nest site loss in old buildings	3	0	L	-	-	-
• Desertification	6	13	-	-	?	M
• Introduced predators	3	0	L	-	L	L
• Prey disease	3	0	L	-	-	-

Notes:

*1 From Table 6.

*2 A subjective assessment for the next 10 years, taking into account each threat's average extent, severity and predicted trends across all African-Eurasian migratory raptor species listed in Table 6.

^{*3} Individuals are killed accidentally (but see Pollution where this may also be the case) rather than intentionally (see Hunting, Persecution).

^{*4} Other than pesticides.

Our overall assessment, according to currently available information, is that the following are likely to be the key threats to raptors over the coming ten years:

- Habitat loss and degradation (which is the most frequent threat to raptor populations, and is probably the root cause of unfavourable conservation status in most species), in particular habitat loss as a result of agricultural expansion, agricultural intensification, overgrazing of remaining natural grasslands (in the Middle-East and Africa) and wetland loss.
- Shooting of migrating raptors, especially in the Middle-East, for sport and trophies.
- Accidental poisoning (e.g. through the use of poison baits to control feral dogs, jackals and wolves).
- Electrocution by power lines.
- Deliberate persecution of raptors (e.g. shooting and destruction of nests to protect game).
- Disturbance of breeding birds (e.g. as a result of tourism, forestry and agricultural activities).

Collisions with wind turbines could also be a significant future problem as a rapid expansion of wind farms is occurring and many of these are likely to be situated within raptor migration routes.

In the longer term, climate change will pose an additional major threat to migratory raptors and exacerbate existing human induced changes throughout the region. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has now stated that there is no significant doubt that the world's climate is changing as a result of human activities (IPCC 2001), and in particular the release of carbon dioxide and other 'greenhouse gases' into the atmosphere. Although the impacts of this climate change on the world's ecosystems and habitats, and associated species are uncertain, it is likely that migratory species may be particularly vulnerable because as habitats and the timing of biological events change these birds' migration strategies and timings may become less adapted to their environment. It is therefore appropriate to take a precautionary approach and assume that their migratory strategies will be detrimentally disrupted.

3.2 Threats to key sites

For over 25 years, BirdLife International has been developing a global programme of identifying Important Bird Areas (IBAs), which are sites of particular importance for birds, that should therefore be subject to some degree of conservation management (including designation as protected areas). The original European criteria for identifying IBAs (Grimmett & Jones 1989) have been updated and expanded for global application. IBAs are now sites that are important for threatened species, congregatory species, assemblages of restricted-range species and assemblages of biome-restricted species.

Sites qualify as IBAs if they meet any of the standard global (Class A) criteria or regionally specific (Class B) criteria (Heath & Evans 2000).

Of particular importance to migratory raptors are those IBAs which are "bottleneck" sites where they (and other soaring birds) congregate to bypass a particular obstacle, often to minimise a sea-crossing or avoid a high mountain range. An IBA bottleneck site where at least 20,000 storks, raptors, or cranes pass during spring or autumn migration qualifies as being of global importance; or it would have European (or regional) importance if over 5,000 storks, or over 3,000 raptors or cranes regularly pass on spring or autumn migration.

Annex 6 contains a list of all IBAs identified by BirdLife International for Europe, the Middle East (including Iran and Afghanistan) and Africa that qualify as bottleneck migration sites of global or regional importance for raptors according to the above criteria. Those that also hold significant numbers of Globally Threatened raptors on passage are also indicated. This list of 100 sites should, however, be treated as a minimum list of internationally important areas requiring protection for migratory raptors. Other sites of equal or greater importance may be discovered with further knowledge, and appropriate protection measures will also be required for nationally and regionally important sites.

However, as the summary of IBA protected status given in Table 8 shows, the legal security and conservation of many of these sites could be greatly improved: only just over half the sites have any form of protection status and only 20 sites have a good level of protection (assuming that where legal protection is apparently afforded, it is actual rather than just a paper designation).

Table 8: Summary of the protection status of IBAs in Europe, the Middle East and Africa that are significant for migratory raptors

(see Annex 6 for individual site data)

Site protection level	Percentage of 100 sites	
	National protection	International protection
High (H)	20	9
Partial (P)	29	13
Low (L)	9	2
None (N)	42	76

4 EXISTING INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION MEASURES APPLICABLE TO AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY RAPTORS

4.1 Overview

There are eleven multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) that have (or could have) significant relevance for the conservation of raptors (whether migratory or resident) and/or their habitats in the African-Eurasian region (see Annex 7 and summary in Table 9). They can be broadly divided into those which deal with broad ecosystem or environmental themes, and those that are more closely focused on conservation of habitats and/or species, as follows:

Broad ecosystem / environmental MEAs

European Landscape Conservation
Convention on Biological Diversity
Climate Change Convention
Convention to Combat Desertification

Nature conservation MEAs

EC Birds Directive
EC Habitats Directive
Bern Convention
African Convention
Ramsar Convention
CITES
Bonn Convention

A detailed review of the provisions of the two EC Directives, the Bern Convention, CITES and the Bonn Convention with respect to European raptors has recently been published by Stroud (2003). This paper, together with the presentation of the provisions of existing MEAs in Annex 7, shows that a panoply of interlocking (if not partially overlapping) legislation already exists that, in principle, covers all the threats faced by migratory raptors in the African-Eurasian region – although the Bonn Convention alone has a provision that can address problems arising from accidental mortality.

Yet clearly, for many species, the current arrangements appear to be either inadequate or simply failing. The reasons for this can be attributed to the widely recognised drawbacks of much international conservation law, including:

- lack of resources (manpower, capacity, information and cash);
- lack of focus;
- absence of key range states;
- difficulties with enforcement;
- poor cross-compliance and coordination; and
- difficulty of undertaking trans-national initiatives.

4.2 Options for Improving Conservation Benefit

Taking the above issues into account, the main strategic approaches to addressing the unfavourable conservation status of migratory raptors in the African-Eurasian region can be determined as:

1. Wait and see whether the situation improves as existing legislation gradually gathers pace in Europe (under the EC Directives as the Natura 2000 network expands and receives management support from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development; Bern Convention; and Convention on Biological Diversity), and in Africa

(under the Convention on Biological Diversity; revised African Convention; Convention to Combat Desertification; and Climate Change Convention).

2. Strengthen the existing legislation in terms of the drawbacks mentioned above, especially by acquiring more Parties (particularly Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan and other Central Asian countries and more African and Middle Eastern members for the Bern Convention), generating higher political commitment for conservation priorities, and seeking ways to improve enforcement of protection under national law.
3. Set up a new instrument under CMS focusing on these species and particular priority actions. Only this option actually provides a mechanism for formulating and implementing a unifying international plan of action for conserving migratory raptors in Africa and Eurasia.

These options were explored in more detail, and the views of key interest groups sought, during the stakeholder consultation exercise, which is described in the following section.

Table 9: Summary of the applicable MEAs compared with the main threats facing African-Eurasian raptors and owls

Applicable MEAs	Threat Type (see Table 6 for more details)						
	Habitat loss / degradation (human induced)	Taking of birds (harvesting / hunting)	Accidental mortality	Control of predators / persecution (including deliberate poisoning)	Pollution (affecting habitat and/or species)	Disturbance (human)	Climate Change
Convention on Biological Diversity	National and regional biodiversity strategies and action plans address habitat protection and restoration Signatories must carry out EIAs for projects that may have a significant effect on biodiversity.	Regulates access to genetic resources (e.g. taking falcons for breeding purposes)	EIAs would address some issues, e.g. wind farms.		EIAs would address some issues		
Climate Change Convention (with Kyoto Protocol)	Establishment of carbon “sinks” through forest and grassland expansion		Encourages wind farms that may be sited in areas used by migratory birds				Signatories to Kyoto Protocol aim to cut greenhouse-gas emissions by at least 5% from 1990 levels between 2008 and 2012.
Convention to Combat Desertification	National and sub-regional action plans prepared to prevent desertification, with a focus on Africa						
CITES		Establishes a well-enforced licensing system for all raptors in <u>inter-national</u> trade or transfers					
European Landscape Conservation	When fully operating, could foster landscape-scale habitat protection and restoration in Europe						

Applicable MEAs	Threat Type (see Table 6 for more details)						
	Habitat loss / degradation (human induced)	Taking of birds (harvesting / hunting)	Accidental mortality	Control of predators / persecution (including deliberate poisoning)	Pollution (affecting habitat and/or species)	Disturbance (human)	Climate Change
Convention on Migratory Species	Requires Signatories to protect areas important for listed migratory species, either directly or under a subsidiary instrument	Prohibits or regulates the taking of listed species	Signatories should prevent, remove, compensate for or minimize, as appropriate, the adverse effects of activities that seriously impede or prevent migration	Calls for any necessary emergency procedures that would rapidly reduce significant threats to migratory species	Calls for any necessary emergency procedures that would rapidly reduce significant threats to migratory species	Signatories should prevent, remove, compensate for or minimize, as appropriate, the adverse effects of activities that seriously impede or prevent migration	
Ramsar Convention	Provides good protection for wetlands included in the Ramsar List which now form a considerable network in the African-Eurasian flyway and thus benefits raptors that use wetland areas				Ramsar Secretariat to be informed of any deterioration of a listed wetland as a result of pollution		
Bern Convention	Urges states to protect areas important for migratory species and is creating an "Emerald Network" of sites across Europe	Strictly protects birds (including their eggs and nests), and prohibits capture, killing and trade in live or dead birds		Deliberate poisoning of raptors prohibited		Signatories should take measures to prevent deliberate disturbance to raptors	
African Convention*	Requires Signatories to set up a system of conservation areas covering the range of ecosystems in the country	Taking permitted only under special licence and any subsequent export is regulated		Certain methods of killing and taking prohibited	Specific measures to be taken to prevent pollution of waters		

Applicable MEAs	Threat Type (see Table 6 for more details)						
	Habitat loss / degradation (human induced)	Taking of birds (harvesting / hunting)	Accidental mortality	Control of predators / persecution (including deliberate poisoning)	Pollution (affecting habitat and/or species)	Disturbance (human)	Climate Change
EC Habitats Directive	EU members are obliged to identify Special Areas of Conservation for key habitat types in proportion to their territory that together form a network known as Natura 2000				Member states should prevent impacts that cause damage to or deterioration of SACs		
EC Birds Directive	EU members are obliged to identify Special Protection Areas for key bird habitats; these are also included in Natura 2000 (see above)	Strictly protects birds (including their eggs and nests), and prohibits capture, killing and trade in live or dead birds		Deliberate poisoning of raptors prohibited	Member states should prevent impacts that cause damage to or deterioration of SPAs	Strictly protects birds (including their eggs and nests) from disturbance especially during breeding season	

*In July 2003, in Mozambique, the members of the African Union adopted a revised text of the African Convention to bring it more in line with recent international conventions such as CBD. It also defines different types of conservation areas. It will enter in to force with the accession of the 15th party – at the time of writing this had not been achieved.

5 CONSULTATION EXERCISE ON A NEW CMS INSTRUMENT FOR AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY RAPTORS

5.1 Introduction

In this phase of the study, carried out during April and May 2005, a consultation exercise was undertaken with a wide range of key interest groups in the African-Eurasian region, comprising:

- CMS Focal Points (Ministries and government agencies: see Table 10)
- Secretariats of other relevant MEAs
- Researchers
- Conservation NGOs

Representatives from these groups received a consultation document, together with the draft Raptor Status Report. A French version of the documents was prepared for Francophone countries and all the documentation was also available on the project website for informal responses. The consultation document contained an overview of the study aims, the main conclusions from the draft status review (including a proposal made at the time to exclude owls from any possible new CMS instrument), and a summary of the existing MEAs with provisions applicable to African-Eurasian raptors, together with possible options for improving the conservation actions in particular for migratory raptors (see 5.2).

Given the study was particularly seeking views on the merits and desirability of a possible new CMS instrument for migratory raptors, a description of the various types of CMS instruments was also provided and a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis of them undertaken (see below).

Responses were collected on a Response Form (Annex 8) for further analysis. The survey sought to obtain at least 50 responses, of which at least 20 came from ministries or government agencies with a good geographic coverage and hosting a significant number of the species covered.

5.2 Types of CMS Instrument and SWOT Analysis

In general, compared with other MEAs, a CMS instrument has a number of distinctive features and advantages, such as:

- focusing attention on a discrete set of migratory species within a given geographic area;
- specifying and engaging the range states most appropriate for these species;
- the management/action plan associated with a CMS instrument can more easily facilitate joint action (including by drawing together the existing legislation), information exchange and integration, and best practice development across the geographical area of the instrument; and
- providing the possibility for better access to other types of assistance, including other biodiversity-related conventions and international organisations, and integration into the entire world of environment and development.

However, there are also disadvantages that have to be borne in mind, including:

- the additional administrative and financial burden for under-resourced environmental ministries, even when actions are closely correlated with obligations under other MEAs;
- the considerable time likely to be needed to negotiate, adopt and ratify a new instrument and for the first meeting of Signatories to convene and actually pursue an agreed action plan; and

- continued reliance on national conservation priorities.

Table 10: Official Organisations Contacted for Consultation Exercise

Albania	Museum of Natural Sciences Muzeu i Shkencave te Natyres
Austria	Amt der NÖ Landesregierung Abteilung BD1-N Naturschutz
Belarus	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Protection
Belarus	Zoological Institute National Academy of Sciences
Belgium	Nature Division Ministry of the Flemish Community
Belgium	Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique
Bulgaria	National Nature Protection Service Ministry of Environment and Water
Bulgaria	National Museum of Natural History Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
Chad	Direction de Conservation de la Faune et des Aires Protégées Ministère de l'Environnement et de l'Eau
Congo	Ministère de l'industrie minière et de l'environnement Direction générale de l'environnement
Congo, Democratic Republic of the	l'Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature ICCN
Cote d'Ivoire	Ministère de l'Environnement et du Cadre de Vie Direction de la Protection de la Nature
Cote d'Ivoire	Ministère d'Etat Ministère de l'Environnement
Croatia	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Physical Planning
Croatia	Institute for Ornithology Croatian Academy of Science and Art
Cyprus	Environment Service Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment
Czech Republic	Krkonoše National Park
Czech Republic	Nature Conservation Department Ministry of the Environment
Denmark	Ministry of the Environment The National Forest and Nature Agency
Egypt	Nature Conservation Section Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency
Eritrea	Department of Environment Ministry for Land, Water and Environment
European Community	Commission of the European Communities DG XI Environment Directorate B: Environmental Quality and Natural Resources
European Community	Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique
Finland	Land Use Department Ministry of the Environment
Finland	Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute Joensuu Game and Fisheries Research
France	Ministère de l'Ecologie et du Développement Durable
France	Ministère de l'Ecologie et du Développement Durable Direction de la Nature et des Paysages
Gambia	Department of State for Fisheries, Natural Resources and the Environment
Georgia	Georgia's Protected Areas Development Center
Germany	Bundesamt für Naturschutz
Germany	Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety Directorate N I 3
Ghana	Department of Game and Wildlife
Ghana	Department of Wildlife
Greece	Ministry of Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works
Guinea	Direction Nationale des Eaux et Forêts Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Elevage et des Forêts
Guinea	Direction Nationale des Eaux et Forêts Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Elevage et des Forêts
Hungary	Hungarian Natural History Museum
Hungary	Ministry for Environment
Iran	International Affairs & Public Relations Department of the Environment
Ireland	Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government National Parks & Wildlife Service
Ireland	National Parks and Wildlife Service
Israel	Nature and National Parks Protection Authority Division of Science and Conservation
Italy	Università di Pisa
Italy	Nature Conservation Service (Div II) Ministry of Environment

Jordan	Ministry of Environment
Kazakhstan	National Environmental Center for Sustainable Development Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Protection
Kenya	Kenya Wildlife Service
Kenya	Kenya Wildlife Service
Kenya	Kenya Wildlife Service
Kuwait	Environment Public Authority (EPA)
Latvia	Ministry of the Environment
Latvia	Laboratory of Ornithology Institute of Biology
Latvia	Ministry of the Environment
Lebanon	Centre de la Recherche Marine CNRS
Lebanon	Centre de la Recherche Marine CNRS
Lithuania	Ministry of Environmental Protection
Luxembourg	Musée National d'Histoire Naturelle Centre de Recherche Scientifique
Luxembourg	Musée National d'Histoire Naturelle Centre de Recherche Scientifique
Luxembourg	Service de la Conservation de la Nature Administration des Eaux et Forêts
Luxembourg	Service de la Conservation de la Nature Administration des Eaux et Forêts
Macedonia, FYR	Bird Study and Protection Society of Macedonia Zoological Department, Faculty of Sciences
Madagascar	Ambassade de la République de Madagascar
Malawi	Department Environmental Affairs Ministry of Forests and Natural Resources
Mali	Ministère de l'Equippement, de l'Aménagement du Territoire, de l'Environnement et de l'Urbanisme
Mali	Projet Biodiversité du Gourma Direction Nationale de la Conservation de la Nature
Malta	Environment Protection Directorate Malta Environment and Planning Authority
Moldova	Biodiversity Division Ministry of Ecology, Construction and Territorial Development
Monaco	Ministère d'Etat
Monaco	Ministère d'Etat
Morocco	Haut Commissariat aux Eaux et Forêts et à la Lutte contre la Désertification
Morocco	Ministère des Affaires Etrangères et de la Coopération MAEC Direction de la Coopération Multilatérale
Netherlands	Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality Directorate for Nature Management
Netherlands	Department of Marine Biology Groningen University
Niger	Ministère de l'Hydraulique, de l'Environnement et de la Lutte Contre la Désertification
Niger	Direction de la faune, pêche et pisciculture Ministère de l'Hydraulique, de l'Environnement et de la Lutte Contre la Désertification
Nigeria	Federal Ministry of Environment
Norway	Directorate of Nature Management
Poland	Institute of Animal Systematics and Evolution Polish Academy of Sciences
Poland	Department of Nature Conservation Ministry of Environment
Portugal	Instituto da Conservação da Natureza
Portugal	Instituto da Conservação da Natureza
Romania	Ministry of Water and Environmental Protection
Romania	Ministry of Water and Environmental Protection
Romania	Department of Ecology, Faculty of Biology, University of Bucharest
Russian Federation	Ministry of Natural Resources
Saudi Arabia	National Commission for Wildlife Conservation and Development
Saudi Arabia	National Commission for Wildlife Conservation and Development (NCWCD)
Senegal	Direction des Parcs Nationaux Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Protection de la Nature
Slovakia	Ministry for the Environment Dept. of Nature and Landscape Protection
Slovakia	National Park Muránska Planina Administration
Slovenia	Ministry for Environment and Regional Planning
Slovenia	Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning
Slovenia	Ministry of the Environment, Spatial Planning and Energy
South Africa	Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism

Spain	Ministerio de Medio Ambiente Dirección General de Conservación de la Naturaleza
Spain	Ministerio de Medio Ambiente Dirección General de Conservación de la Naturaleza
Sweden	Swedish Biodiversity Centre
Switzerland	Office fédéral de l'environnement, des forêts, et du paysage (OFEFP)
Syria	Directorate of Biodiversity and Protected Areas Ministry of Local Administration and Environment
Tanzania	Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism Wildlife Division
Tanzania	University of Dar es Salaam Institute of Resource Assessment
Togo	Direction de la Faune et de la Chasse Ministère de l'Environnement et des Ressources Forestière
Togo	Ministère de l'Environnement
Tunisia	Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Environnement et des Ressources Hydrauliques Direction Générale des Forêts
Tunisia	Ministère de l'agriculture Direction générale des forêts
Uganda	Wildlife Division Ministry of Tourism, Trade & Industry
Uganda	Institute of Environment and Natural Resources Makerere University
Ukraine	Wildlife Protection Department Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources
Ukraine	Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources
Ukraine	Schmalhausen Institute of Zoology
United Arab Emirates	Environmental Research and Wildlife Development Agency National Avian Research Center
United kingdom	Scottish Natural Heritage
United kingdom	Global Wildlife Division Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

There are four types of CMS instruments for cooperative actions. In increasing order of complexity, these are:

- (1) stand-alone Action Plans;
- (2) Memoranda of Understanding
- (3) Article IV(4) agreements that can cover any migratory population in any specified geographic range of one or more species (even ones not listed in Annex II of CMS); and
- (4) Article IV(3) Agreements that must cover the whole range of one or more species listed in Annex II of CMS.

A further possibility in respect of this study was:

- (5) to expand the coverage of the existing Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) to cover raptors (or indeed all migratory birds) using this flyway.

Since all migratory raptors are listed on Appendix II of CMS, any of these instruments may be used for developing concerted international actions for their conservation. Indeed, over time, it is possible to start with a relatively simple instrument and gradually increase its legal standing.

Table 11 provides a review of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT analysis) of each type of instrument.

Table 11: Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) of potential CMS instruments for migratory raptors

Type of CMS Instrument	Main Characteristics	Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
1. Action Plan	A non-binding stand-alone instrument that can be recommended by the Conference of Parties to the Ranges States of a migratory species listed in Appendix I so that they take further measures considered appropriate to benefit the species under Article III(6).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be developed quickly with little formal procedure (no need for signatures by the participating agencies). • Enjoys the international authority of the CMS with its institutional umbrella as a body provided by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). • Provides a stable and long-term legal and/or political framework for initial implementation and later evolution (e.g. to MoU or Agreement). • There are no regular administrative duties or financial contributions to be paid: the administrative work is usually done by the CMS Secretariat. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No legal standing and therefore depends for effectiveness entirely on the goodwill of the participating states. • No organisational structure created for implementation so the CMS Secretariat has to coordinate it. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The material for an Action Plan is readily available and any Range State willing to participate could do so quickly. • The Action Plan could serve as a forerunner for an MoU and eventually a new Agreement, or possible adoption under an expanded AEWA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signatories to CMS will not provide the Secretariat with the additional resources needed to service the Action Plan. • Participants in the Action Plan will not give sufficient support because it is not legally binding.

Type of CMS Instrument	Main Characteristics	Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
2. Memorandum of Understanding	A non-binding instrument that aims to co-ordinate existing short-term measures across the range of one or more seriously endangered migratory species. It initiates immediate concerted action measures until a more elaborate instrument (i.e. an Article IV agreement) is prepared and adopted by the Range States.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be developed and agreed on relatively short notice • Enjoys the international authority of the CMS with its institutional umbrella as a body provided by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). • Provides a stable and long-term legal and/or political framework for initial implementation and later evolution. • There are no regular administrative duties or financial contributions to be paid: the administrative work is usually done by the CMS Secretariat. • Has a higher standing than an Action Plan alone because it requires Ministerial (or equivalent) signatures, and embodies political commitments, but does not need ratification. • Their simplicity allows them (and/or their associated action plans) to be fairly easily re-opened for re-negotiation or amendment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No legal standing and therefore depends for effectiveness entirely on the goodwill of the participating states. • No organisational structure created for implementation so the CMS Secretariat has to coordinate it. • Typically has a much less substantive content than an Agreement because it must not create any new commitment for the signatory Range States. • As an MoU does not create any organisational structure of its own, it is arguably not as dynamically implemented as would be an Agreement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The material for an MoU and Action Plan is readily available and any Range State willing to participate could do so provided the government signs the MoU. • The MoU could serve as a forerunner a new Agreement, or possibly amalgamation with an expanded AEWA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signatories to CMS will not provide the Secretariat with the additional resources needed to service the MoU and Action Plan. • Signatories to the MoU will not give sufficient support because it is not legally binding. • The MoU itself could provide a poor substitute for a higher level Agreement.

Type of Instrument	CMS	Main Characteristics	Strengths*	Weaknesses*	Opportunities	Threats
3. Article agreement	IV(4)	<p>Article IV(4) agreements may take the form of legally binding multilateral treaties or Memoranda of Understanding*.</p> <p>They may be concluded for any population, members of which periodically cross one or more national boundaries but their geographical coverage does not need to extend to the entire migratory range of the species concerned. Moreover, the species covered do not have to be listed in Appendix II of CMS.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A self-standing treaty with its own institutions for implementing an Action Plan. • The legally binding nature of this instrument could unlock resources that would not be released for an Action Plan or MoU. • Decision and policy making bodies, serviced by a Secretariat, meet on a regular basis. • Has the potential to create a dynamic environment to address the particular needs of the species covered, and Range States. • Provides long term legal stability for the Range States, their authorities and scientific bodies, as well as the international community of governmental and non-governmental organisations involved. • Signatories must make regular reports on implementation. • Has flexibility in coverage of species and geographic range, and can develop organically from an MoU. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needs to be ratified in accordance with the internal law making or decision making procedures of every Range State. This can take considerable time. • The legal and institutional framework of the Agreement means the Signatories may have to stretch limited resources to a further MEA requiring regular contributions and national personnel for meetings and reporting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The material for an agreement and Action Plan is readily available and any Range State willing to become a Party could do so provided it ratifies the Agreement. • The agreement could focus on the most threatened raptors and key range states in order to minimise delays and costs. • The agreement could be amalgamated later with an expanded AEWA if appropriate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signatories to the Agreement might not contribute sufficient resources to make it effective as an independent instrument.

*See previous row for Memorandum of Understanding option

Type of Instrument	CMS	Main Characteristics	Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
4. Article Agreement	IV(3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article IV(3) Agreements are viewed as formal, multi-lateral treaties. They may create new conservation or financial obligations for their Contracting Parties. To enter into force these instruments need to be ratified or acceded to by a pre-determined number of Range States. This instrument applies to species listed in Appendix II of CMS. Parties within whose territory Appendix II migratory species occur shall endeavour to conclude Article IV(3) Agreements, following the guidelines set out in Article V. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A self-standing treaty with its own institutions for implementing an Action Plan. The legally binding nature of this instrument could unlock resources that would not be released for an Action Plan or MoU. Decision and policy making bodies, serviced by a Secretariat, meet on a regular basis. Has the potential to create a dynamic environment to address the particular needs of the species covered, and Range States. Provides long term legal stability for the Range States, their authorities and scientific bodies, as well as the international community of governmental and non-governmental organisations involved. Parties must make regular reports on implementation. Has a high legal standing, especially for CMS Parties, as a requirement for Annex II species (i.e. raptors). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs to be ratified in accordance with the internal law making or decision making procedures of every Range State. This can take considerable time. The legal and institutional framework of the Agreement means the Parties may have to stretch limited resources to a further MEA requiring regular contributions and national personnel for meetings and reporting. The Agreement should cover the whole geographic range of the species covered so the number of eligible Parties can grow very large. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The material for an Agreement and Action Plan is readily available and any Range State willing to become a Party could do so provided it ratifies the Agreement. The Agreement would enjoy the highest level of legal standing. The Agreement would embrace all raptors and relevant Range States. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The large number of Parties involved would mean a considerable period before the Agreement enters in to force. Parties to the Agreement might not contribute sufficient resources to make it effective as an independent instrument.

5. Expansion of Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA)	<p>This is an Agreement under Article IV(3) of CMS that came into force in 1999. It covers 235 species in 117 Range States, of which 48 are currently Signatories. The Signatories take co-ordinated measures to maintain migratory waterbird species in a favourable conservation status or to restore them to such a status. They apply within the limits of their national jurisdiction a range of prescribed measures as well as specific actions determined in the Action Plan of the Agreement.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An already existing and operational Agreement, requiring relatively few additional resources to cover raptors. • Covers the same geographic range as needed for African-Eurasian raptors. • No need for Signatories to adopt a new treaty and has economies of scale. • Many threats to waterbirds similar to those faced by raptors e.g. climate change, wind farms, pollution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will potentially require a lengthy process of amendment and ratification by at least two-thirds (i.e. 32) of the existing Signatories. • The first realistic opportunity to propose such an amendment would be for the Fourth Meeting of Signatories in 2008. • Could reduce the focus on waterbirds while not generating strong action for raptors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The material for a raptor Action Plan is readily available and could be integrated with the existing AEWA Action Plan. • If the Signatories to AEWA agree to expand its scope then this would fast-track concerted international action for raptors. • The additional costs for including raptors in an expanded AEWA would be much less than creating a new Agreement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An expanded AEWA could attenuate specific actions for particular groups and have to rely on more generic actions.
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5.3 Survey results

By the time the consultation exercise closed, on 10 May 2005, 60 responses had been received. Of these, 57 could be attributed to 35 range states (see Table 12), with three others not having sufficient information for categorisation. This result met the survey objectives set out in 6.1.

5.4 Analysis of responses

5.4.1 Status Report conclusions

The first two questions in the response form sought feedback on the conclusions in the status report about the raptor species known to be in unfavourable conservation status. The results were:

Question	Yes (%)
<i>Do you agree with the general conclusion of the status report that few migratory owls have an unfavourable conservation status at present?</i>	89
<i>Do you agree with the general conclusion of the status report that a high proportion of migratory raptors⁶ have an unfavourable conservation status at present?</i>	98

Some respondents (most of whom did not agree with the propositions) sent comments to support their views which mainly concerned the lack of data to justify excluding owls from any new CMS instrument, and similarly that other African raptors might also be found to be either migratory and/or have unfavourable status if more recent data were available.

5.4.2 Desirability of a CMS instrument for migratory African-Eurasian raptors

The third question in the response form asked:

Do you believe that a new international instrument under CMS covering migratory raptors would lead to improved conservation action for those species having an unfavourable conservation status?

Some 90% of the respondents supported the proposition. Of the remaining 10% who did not favour a new CMS instrument for migratory raptors, only 3% represented ministries or government agencies. The main reasons for not supporting the proposition concerned problems with implementing existing conventions, and therefore the addition of a further instrument would be of little value and could even deflect actions from existing agreements. Furthermore, the length of time that it takes to agree new CMS Agreements was also a concern for some respondents.

5.4.3 Preferences for a CMS instrument for migratory African-Eurasian raptors

Those respondents who favoured a new CMS instrument were asked to rank the options set out in 6.2 in order of preference. The overall results for first preference for all respondents are given in Table 13. This indicates that an MoU was the overall first choice for a new CMS instrument.

⁶ In the consultation exercise the term “raptor” was used to refer to diurnal raptors only.

Table 12: Summary of Responses by Range State and Type of Respondent

	Country / Region	Ministry	Gov. Agency	Research Institute	NGO	Other
1	Botswana				1	
2	Bulgaria	1	1			
3	Burkina		1			
4	Congo DR		1			
5	Congo		1			
6	Croatia			1		
7	Egypt	1				
8	France	1	1			
9	Germany		1	2	1	
10	Gibraltar				1	
11	Hungary	1		1	1	
12	Israel		1	1		
13	Italy			2		
14	Jordan				1	
15	Kenya			1		
16	Monaco	1				
17	Morocco	1				
18	Netherlands	1	1		1	
19	Nigeria				1	
20	Portugal				1	
21	Romania			1		
22	Russia			1		
23	Saudi Arabia		1			
24	Senegal	1				
25	South Africa	1	1	1	1	
26	Spain		1			
27	Sweden	1				
28	Switzerland				1	
29	Tanzania	1				
30	Turkey				1	
31	UAE				1	
32	Uganda					1
33	UK			1	3	1
34	Ukraine	1		1		
35	Zimbabwe				1	
	"Africa"				1	
	"Europe"				2	
	Sub-totals	12	11	13	19	2
	TOTAL					57

Table 13: The number of times each CMS option was ranked of highest importance

Ranking	Action Plan only	MoU	IV(4) Agreement	IV(3) Agreement	AEWA expansion
1 st preference	8	15	8	7	11
Only option proposed	0	1	0	3	1
Total	8	16	8	10	12

However, separate examination of the responses from ministries / government agencies on the one hand and NGOs / research organisations / others on the other hand (Table 14) indicated that the preference for an MoU was much stronger amongst the latter group. Amongst the ministries / government agencies an expansion of AEWA was the more frequent first preference, although an MoU was still given first choice by a significant proportion of respondents.

Table 14: The percentage of times each CMS option was ranked of highest importance (i.e. 1st preference or only option proposed) according to organisation type

Organisation type / responses	Action Plan only	MoU	IV(4) Agreement	IV(3) Agreement	AEWA expansion
Ministry / government agency (n = 21)	13.6%	22.7%	13.6%	18.2%	31.8%
NGO, research and other (n = 31)	15.6%	34.4%	15.6%	18.8%	15.6%

Analysis of the overall scores (i.e. taking into account average perceived importance of all options) also indicated a fairly clear preference for an MoU (Table 15). Furthermore, this preference was consistent amongst respondents from ministries / government agencies and NGOs / researchers / others (Table 16). It is notable that there appeared to be particularly low support for the preparation of either a IV(4) or IV(3) Agreement amongst ministry / government agency respondents.

Table 15: Overall scores for each CMS instrument option and ranking

Ranking	Action Plan only	MoU	IV(4) Agreement	IV(3) Agreement	AEWA expansion
1	8	15	8	7	11
2	9	8	7	9	10
3	9	9	11	11	7
4	6	11	10	10	6
5	13	4	11	9	13
Sum (excluding missing scores)	142	122	150	143	141
Valid Responses*1	45	47	47	46	47
Ratio of sum : valid responses	3.16	2.60	3.19	3.11	3.00
Rank (1 = highest preference)	4	1	5	3	2

*1 Excluding scores from respondents that did not rank all options.

Table 16: Option scores for each CMS instrument according to organisation type

Organisation type	Action Plan only	MoU	IV(4) Agreement	IV(3) Agreement	AEWA expansion
Ministry / government agency	3.18	2.42	3.16	3.28	2.74
Rank (1 = highest preference)	4	1	3	5	2
NGO, research and other	3.14	2.71	3.21	3.00	3.18
Rank (1 = highest preference)	3	1	5	2	4

6 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 The need for conservation action for African-Eurasian migratory raptors

Despite some data limitations, it is clear that at least 32 (53%) of African-Eurasian migratory raptor species have an unfavourable conservation status at a global or regional level. Indeed ten of these are Globally Threatened or Near Threatened (see Annex 5). Furthermore, a high proportion of these species are in continued long-term or rapid population declines.

Analysis of the known threats to raptors in the African-Eurasian region suggest that there are a substantial number and variety of factors causing unfavourable conservation status. However, the principal threats over the next ten years are likely to be habitat loss and degradation (especially as a result of agricultural expansion and intensification, overgrazing of remaining natural grasslands and wetland loss), shooting of migrating raptors (particularly in the Mediterranean region and Middle-East), accidental poisoning, electrocution on power lines, deliberate persecution and disturbance of breeding birds.

In the longer term, climate change is expected to exacerbate these habitat-related problems profoundly across the entire African-Eurasian region.

Analysis of existing MEAs reveals that a wide range of interlocking (if not partially overlapping) legislation already exists that, in principle, covers all the threats faced by migratory raptors in the African-Eurasian region. However, it is also apparent that these are currently not sufficiently to prevent declines in migratory raptor populations mainly because there is a lack of a unifying international plan of action that leads to concerted efforts for conserving migratory raptors in Africa and Eurasia. Only the CMS provides a mechanism that can formulate and implement such an international plan of action that can coordinate and integrate the application of existing MEAs and address and remaining gaps.

Given the continued rapid declines in several species we conclude that there is clear and urgent need for further internationally coordinated action for migratory raptors in the African-Eurasian region.

6.2 Support for a new CMS instrument for African-Eurasian migratory raptors

The responses from the consultation exercise, while neither comprehensive nor official, strongly supported the findings of the Raptor Status Report, namely (i) that few migratory owls have an unfavourable conservation status at present; (ii) that a high proportion of migratory African-Eurasian raptors have an unsatisfactory conservation status; and (iii) they would benefit from a new CMS instrument to improve their conservation status.

However, some strong reservations were expressed about the exclusion of owls from any CMS instrument, and also that the list of raptors identified as most threatened would probably increase if better data on intra-African migrants were available.

The general preference among respondents on the form of CMS instrument is for a new MoU (accompanied by an Action Plan). The second preferences differ among organisation types: governmental bodies tend toward an expansion of AEWA while the research and non-governmental bodies favour an Article 4(3) Agreement. This suggests that there would be some support for moving from an MoU to a stronger stand alone instrument having its own administrative structures (either through AEWA or a new Agreement) if it is found to be necessary in the future.

As a result of these findings, we recommend that a draft MoU with Action Plan should be prepared for further consideration by the CMS Conference of Parties.

The Action Plan should focus on urgent conservation measures for the 32 migratory raptor species identified in the Raptor Status Report as having an unfavourable status. But it should also include actions to maintain and monitor the status of other migratory raptors, and to clarify the migratory status of African raptors.

6.3 Interactions between existing MEAs and a new instrument for African-Eurasian migratory raptors

As discussed in Chapter 5 (and above) a range of instruments already exist that should in principle address most of the key actions required for migratory raptors. Some consultees also raised concerns that their capacity for implementing existing instruments (such as AEWA) was already limited, and therefore a new instrument would add little benefit, and might even interfere with existing actions. We therefore recommend that the MoU should reiterate and strengthen calls for actions under existing MEAs where appropriate, whilst the Action Plan should focus on identifying new priority actions that are not currently included within existing initiatives as well provide a unifying approach for concerted actions.

6.4 Scope of a new instrument for African-Eurasian migratory raptors

On the basis of the above considerations and the results of the Raptor Status Report and consultation, we recommend that the MoU and Action Plan should:

- Focus on diurnal migratory birds of prey of the African-Eurasian region. This is because most owls currently appear to have a favourable conservation status (only one owl appears to require international actions) and there is relatively little overlap between the threats to owls and raptors. However, we conclude that the disadvantages of excluding owls from a CMS instrument is outweighed by the practical benefits of engaging a wider range of interests, and the additional actions are not onerous.
- Cover all raptors in the Africa-Eurasia region, prioritised according to their conservation status. Highest priority should be given to actions for globally threatened species first and foremost, followed by actions for other species with an unfavourable conservation status at a regional level. Finally, actions should also be taken as necessary for other migratory species to maintain their favourable status.
- Only cover true migratory raptor species that regularly occur within the African-Eurasian region as listed in Annex 3 (which includes partial migrants). For practical reasons the instrument should exclude nomadic species and species that technically meet the CMS migratory species definition because they regularly cross one or more national boundaries, but are short-distance migrants, which travel less 100 km. The species include a sufficient number and diversity of raptors and range of coverage that the additional listing of short-distance ('technical') migrants would be of little additional benefit, because many short-distance migrants would benefit from actions proposed for other migratory raptors.
- Apply to the aggregate range of all migratory raptors (with the exception of Amur falcon *Falco amurensis*) that regularly occur within the Afrotropical or Western Palearctic realms at some point in their annual cycle. It is suggested that Amur falcon is excluded because this species has a unique and extremely long migration (from China and east Asia, across south Asia and the Indian Ocean to Africa) that would result in the addition of a large number of countries to the area covered by MoU, which could be impractical. Furthermore, Amur Falcon currently appears to have a favourable conservation status. The African-Eurasia region covered by the MoU would therefore comprise all countries within the Afrotropical Realm (including Madagascar but excluding the archipelagos of Cape Verde, Comores and Seychelles and other islands), all countries within the Western Palearctic (as defined by Cramp *et al.* (1977-93)) and the following additional

countries (which contain breeding populations of which a significant proportion regularly migrate to Afrotropical or Western Palearctic countries): Afghanistan, China, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

- Focus on key transboundary actions that will address the key threats to migratory raptors (as listed above), including:
 - reviewing and where necessary strengthening the legal protection afforded to raptors;
 - alleviating threats related to habitat degradation and loss;
 - protecting and managing important sites for migratory raptors, especially bottleneck sites, because threats can have a disproportionate impact on populations at such sites.

And to support these objectives the Action Plan should:

- Promote activities that raise awareness of migratory raptors, their current plight and the threats that they face, and the measures that need to be taken to conserve them.
- Monitor raptor populations throughout the region to establish reliable population trends, and carry out research to establish the impacts of threats on them and the measures that are needed to alleviate them.
- Identify regions where actions should be taken, and priorities and responsibilities for their implementation. It is not proposed to specify directly which individual countries should be expected to take actions at this stage, because there is insufficient information to consistently and reliably identify where actions must be taken. Further consultation with CMS Focal Points and other stakeholders within the countries covered by the Action Plan would be required to achieve this.

6.5 Potential problems with establishing a new instrument for African-Eurasian migratory raptors

The main problems that a new MoU will face in delivering conservation benefits for raptors are as follows:

- obtaining the necessary number and type of signatory range states to make it operational, bearing in mind some have reservations over their existing burdens;
- implementing the MoU given that it has no formal legal standing or budget and therefore depends for effectiveness entirely on the goodwill of the participating states;
- maintaining a high level of coordination and support given the number of species and wide geographic range since the Secretariat is provided by the Convention Secretariat and the level of input will depend on the resources available to them and other programme priorities;
- possible confusion with the existing AEWA.

It is therefore recommended that, if the Conference of Parties supports the establishment of a new MoU and Action Plan for African-Eurasian Migratory Raptors, then an ad hoc consortium of range states should be formed to parent the MoU in consultation with the Convention Secretariat.

The consortium would undertake the following tasks pending the entry in to force of the MoU itself:

- appoint an interim coordinator, under the auspices of the Convention Secretariat (but not necessarily co-located with it) to liaise with range states and encourage them to sign the MoU;
- ensure close coordination with the Secretariat of AEWA and other MEA agencies;
- provide funding for the administrative costs of the coordinator;

- arrange and fund the first Meeting of Signatories in cooperation with the Convention Secretariat.

6.6 Financing required for a new instrument for African-Eurasian migratory raptors to deliver additional conservation benefits

On the assumption that the draft Memorandum of Understanding and Action Plan given in the Attachment are adopted more or less as set out, a cost estimation was made for implementing the Action Plan over a 5 year period (Table 17).

The estimate allows only for the expected incremental cost on top of domestic expenditure that signatories would be expected to disburse in the normal course of their nature conservation activities or from additional national commitments undertaken by signing the MoU. However, some provision has been made, in accordance with paragraph 17 of the MoU on mutual financial assistance, for funding priority actions for surveys, management planning and awareness raising through establishing special grant programmes to be administered by the MoU Secretariat. Provision is also made for operational costs and supporting attendance at Meetings of Signatories.

The cost estimate totals US\$1,970,000 over five years. While this sum is rather higher than for other existing CMS MoUs, it should be borne in mind that this MoU covers by far the greatest number of range states and migratory species. Moreover, in global conservation terms, the amount is quite modest and could be raised through fostering private / public partnerships and by in-kind or offset contributions.

Table 17: Cost estimate for implementing an International Action Plan for African-Eurasian Migratory Raptors over five years

Activities	Priority Level	Time-scale	Item	Year 1 US\$	Year 2 US\$	Year 3 US\$	Year 4 US\$	Year 5 US\$	Total US\$
0: MoU Management									
First Meeting of Signatories: 20 countries: 1 rep each funded				40,000					40,000
Second Meeting of Signatories: 40 countries: 1 rep each funded							90,000		90,000
Coordination (Staff, office, travel, incidentals)				50,000	55,000	60,000	70,000	75,000	310,000
Sub-total				90,000	55,000	60,000	160,000	75,000	440,000
1: Improvement of legal protection									
1.1 Update CMS appendices to include all Category 1 species on Annex I	Second	Short							0
1.2 Ensure national legislation protects all raptors from all forms of killing, disturbance at nest sites, egg-collection and taking from the wild unless this can be shown to be sustainable and forms part of an International Management Plan agreed by parties to this MoU	First	Immediate							0
1.3 Ensure that national legislation bans the use of exposed poison baits for predator control	First	Immediate							0
1.4 Ensure that national legislation requires all new power lines to be designed to avoid bird of prey electrocution	Second	Short							0
1.5 Strengthen the application of legal protection for raptors by training law enforcement authorities, and raising public awareness to boost surveillance and reporting of illegal activities, particularly at bottleneck sites	Second	Ongoing							0
1.6 Identify gaps in existing MEAs where raptor protection and conservation can be improved and draw these to the attention of the relevant Secretariat and other Parties	Third	Intermediate	Consultancy		30,000				30,000
Sub-total				0	30,000	0	0	0	30,000
2: Protect and manage important sites and flyways									
2.1 Designate important sites (listed in Table 3) as protected areas with management plans that are agreed with key stakeholders and take bird of prey conservation requirements into account:	Second	Medium	Consultancies for ca. 30 sites		100,000	100,000	100,000		300,000
2.2 Include important sites (listed in Table 3) in the EU within the Natura 2000 network	Second	Short							0
2.3 Require EIAs in accordance with the CBD guidelines (CBD Decision VI/7A and any subsequent amendments) for any projects impacting sites listed in Table 3	Third	Medium							0
2.4 Conduct risk assessments at important sites (listed in Table 3) to identify and address actual or potential causes of incidental mortality from human causes (including fire, laying poisons, pest spraying, power lines, wind turbines)	Third	Ongoing							0
2.5 Conduct Strategic Environmental Assessments of planned infrastructure developments within major flyways to identify key risk areas	Third	Medium							0
Sub-total				0	100,000	100,000	100,000	0	300,000
3: Habitat conservation and sustainable management									
3.1 Develop schemes under the EU EAFRD / Rural Development Regulation that are targeted towards maintaining or restoring habitats for raptors	Second	Ongoing							0
3.2 Survey, maintain and restore natural vegetation cover in former habitats (especially grasslands) in the range of globally threatened species.	Third	Long	Surveys in Africa and Central Asia		50,000	60,000	80,000	100,000	290,000
Sub-total				0	50,000	60,000	80,000	100,000	290,000

Activities	Priority Level	Time-scale	Item	Year 1 US\$	Year 2 US\$	Year 3 US\$	Year 4 US\$	Year 5 US\$	Total US\$
4: Raise awareness of problems faced by migratory raptors and measures needed to conserve them			Small Grant Programme for NGOs		40,000	60,000	80,000	100,000	280,000
4.1 Develop a programme of public awareness, using TV, radio, newspapers and the internet to publicise the migrations undertaken by raptors, their current status, the threats to them and actions that can be taken to conserve them.	Second	Short							0
4.2 Develop an awareness programme within forestry, agriculture, fisheries, energy, industry and transport etc to inform decision makers of the current status of raptors, the threats to them and the sectoral actions that can be taken to conserve them.	Second	Medium							0
4.3 Develop a school educational programme and teaching resources to inform school children of the migrations undertaken by raptors, their current status, the threats to them and actions that can be taken to conserve them.	Third	Medium							0
4.4 Establish information notices and provide leaflets at bottleneck sites informing people of their importance for migrating raptors and the measures that they can take to conserve them	Second	Short							0
Sub-total				0	40,000	60,000	80,000	100,000	280,000
5: Monitor bird of prey populations and carry out conservation research			Bird of prey monitoring and research fund		100,000	100,000	120,000	120,000	440,000
5.1 Establish a monitoring network comprising a representative range of sites where systematic and coordinated monitoring of breeding populations and migration numbers (spring and autumn) can be undertaken	Third	Immediate							0
5.2 Design and undertake a coordinated monitoring programme based on the monitoring network established under 5.1	Third	Ongoing							0
5.3 Assess the impacts of habitat change on breeding, passage and wintering populations of raptors, and identify required measures to maintain Favourable Conservation Status	Second	Medium							0
5.4 Assess the impacts of the use of toxic agrochemicals on breeding, passage and wintering populations of raptors, and identify required measures to maintain Favourable Conservation Status	Second	Medium							0
Sub-total				0	100,000	100,000	120,000	120,000	440,000
6: Supporting measures									
6.1 National Plans of Action for migratory raptors	Second	Immediate	Consultancies	80,000					80,000
6.2 International Plan of Action for migratory raptors	Second	Short	Consultancy	30,000					30,000
6.3 Prepare single species 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	First	Medium	Consultancies		40,000	20,000	20,000		80,000
6.4 Update Tables 1 and 3 according to new information emerging from the monitoring programme	Third	Ongoing							0
Sub-total				110,000	40,000	20,000	20,000	0	190,000
TOTAL				200,000	415,000	400,000	560,000	395,000	1,970,000

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ANNEX 1

VI World Conference on Birds of Prey and Owls

Budapest, Hungary, 18-23 May 2003

RESOLUTION 3

RECALLING that the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals 1979 (CMS) encourages international cooperative action to conserve migratory species;

CONSIDERING that migratory raptors constitute an important part of the global biological diversity which, in keeping with the spirit of the Convention on Biological Diversity 1992 and Agenda 21, should be conserved for the benefit of present and future generations;

AWARE of the environmental, ecological, genetic, scientific, aesthetic, recreational, cultural, educational, social and economic values of raptors in general;

CONSCIOUS that migratory raptors are particularly vulnerable because they migrate over long distances, with many species being reliant upon land-bridges and/or networks of fragile habitats that are declining in extent and becoming degraded through unsustainable human activities;

RECOGNISING the need to take immediate action to halt the decline of migratory raptor populations and their habitats in the geographic area of the African-Eurasian raptor migration systems;

CONVINCED that a multilateral agreement and its implementation through coordinated and concerted action would contribute significantly to the conservation of migratory raptors and their habitats in the most effective manner, and would deliver ancillary benefits for many other species of animal and plant;

URGES the CMS Secretariat and other bodies of CMS, notably the Scientific Council, urgently to consider establishing a multilateral agreement on the conservation of African-Eurasian migratory raptors;

ACKNOWLEDGES that effective implementation of such an agreement would require assistance to be provided to some range states for research, training and monitoring of migratory raptor species and their habitats, for the management of those habitats as well as for the establishment or improvement of scientific and administrative institutions for the implementation of such an agreement; and

FURTHER URGES all range states within the African-Eurasian geographic area actively to embrace this proposal and to work together to establish, ratify and implement such an agreement as a matter of urgency.

ANNEX 2

The Definition of “Favourable Conservation Status” According to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

According to Article 1(c) “conservation status” will be taken as “favourable” when:

- (1) population dynamics data indicate that the migratory species is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its ecosystems;
- (2) the range of the migratory species is neither currently being reduced, nor is likely to be reduced, on a long-term basis;
- (3) there is, and will be in the foreseeable future, sufficient habitat to maintain the population of the migratory species on a long-term basis; and
- (4) the distribution and abundance of the migratory species approach historic coverage and levels to the extent that potentially suitable ecosystems exist and to the extent that is consistent with wise wildlife management.

Conversely, Article 1(d) states:

"Conservation status" will be taken as "unfavourable" if any of the conditions set out in subparagraph (c) ... is not met.

ANNEX 3

Raptors that Regularly Occur in the Afrotropical and Palearctic Realms, their Migratory Behaviour and Global Conservation Status

Key / source: W Pal & Afro-tropical: regularly occurring range according to BirdLife International World Bird Database: Af = Afrotropical Realm, WP = Western Palearctic. Migratory behaviour: source GROMS (www.groms.de) unless otherwise indicated, (G) = follows GROMMS listing although this differs from its migrant status in the BirdLife World Bird Database, (BL) = follows BirdLife's migrant listing although not listed as a migrant in GROMMS (see below for reasons). Global status according to BirdLife International's World Bird Database, www.birdlife.org (accessed 20 June 2005): CR = Critical, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, NT = Near Threatened, LC = Least Concern.

Scientific name	English name	W Pal & Afro-tropical	Migratory behaviour	Global status
SAGITTARIIDAE				
<i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>	Secretarybird	Af	not a migrant	LC
ACCIPITRIDAE				
<i>Aviceda cuculoides</i>	African Baza	Af	full migrant (G)	LC
<i>Aviceda madagascariensis</i>	Madagascar Baza	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Aviceda jerdoni</i>	Jerdon's Baza		full migrant	LC
<i>Aviceda leuphotes</i>	Black Baza		full migrant	LC
<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	European Honey-buzzard	Af WP	full migrant	LC
<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>	Oriental Honey-buzzard	WP	full migrant	LC
<i>Macheiramphus alcinus</i>	Bat Hawk	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	Black-winged Kite	Af WP	not a migrant (G)	LC
<i>Chelictinia riocourii</i>	African Swallow-tailed Kite	Af	full migrant	LC
<i>Milvus milvus</i>	Red Kite	Af WP	full migrant	NT
<i>Milvus migrans</i>	Black Kite	Af WP	full migrant	LC
<i>Milvus lineatus</i>	Black-eared Kite		full migrant (BL)	LC
<i>Haliastur indus</i>	Brahminy Kite		not a migrant	LC
<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	White-bellied Fish-eagle		not a migrant	LC
<i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i>	African Fish-eagle	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Haliaeetus vociferoides</i>	Madagascar Fish-eagle	Af	not a migrant	CR
<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	White-tailed Eagle	WP	full migrant	LC
<i>Haliaeetus pelagicus</i>	Steller's Sea-eagle		full migrant	VU
<i>Ichthyophaga humilis</i>	Lesser Fish-eagle		not a migrant	NT
<i>Gypohierax angolensis</i>	Palm-nut Vulture	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>	Lammergeier	Af WP	not a migrant (G)	LC
<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	Egyptian Vulture	Af WP	full migrant	LC
<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>	Hooded Vulture	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Gyps africanus</i>	White-backed Vulture	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>	White-rumped Vulture		not a migrant	CR
<i>Gyps rueppellii</i>	Rueppell's Griffon	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Gyps himalayensis</i>	Himalayan Griffon		not a migrant (G)	LC
<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	Eurasian Griffon	Af WP	full migrant	LC
<i>Gyps coprotheres</i>	Cape Griffon	Af	not a migrant (G)	VU
<i>Aegypius monachus</i>	Cinereous Vulture	Af WP	full migrant	NT
<i>Torgos tracheliotus</i>	Lappet-faced Vulture	Af WP	not a migrant	VU
<i>Trionocephus occipitalis</i>	White-headed Vulture	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Sarcogyps calvus</i>	Red-headed Vulture		not a migrant	NT

Scientific name	English name	W Pal & Afro-tropical	Migratory behaviour	Global status
<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	Short-toed Snake-eagle	Af WP	full migrant	LC
<i>Circaetus cinereus</i>	Brown Snake-eagle	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Circaetus fasciolatus</i>	Southern Banded Snake-eagle	Af	not a migrant	NT
<i>Circaetus cinerascens</i>	Banded Snake-eagle	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>	Bateleur	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Spilornis cheela</i>	Crested Serpent-eagle		not a migrant	LC
<i>Dryotriorchis spectabilis</i>	Congo Serpent-eagle	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Eutriorchis astur</i>	Madagascar Serpent-eagle	Af	not a migrant	EN
<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Western Marsh-harrier	Af WP	full migrant	LC
<i>Circus ranivorus</i>	African Marsh Harrier	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Circus spilonotus</i>	Eastern Marsh-harrier		full migrant	LC
<i>Circus macroscelus</i>	Madagascar Harrier	Af	not a migrant	VU
<i>Circus maillardi</i>	Réunion Harrier	Af	not a migrant	EN
<i>Circus maurus</i>	Black Harrier	Af	full migrant (G)	VU
<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Northern Harrier	WP	full migrant	LC
<i>Circus macrourus</i>	Pallid Harrier	Af WP	full migrant	NT
<i>Circus melanoleucos</i>	Pied Harrier		full migrant	LC
<i>Circus pygargus</i>	Montagu's Harrier	Af WP	full migrant	LC
<i>Polyboroides typus</i>	African Harrier-hawk	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Polyboroides radiatus</i>	Madagascar Harrier-hawk	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Kaupifalco monogrammicus</i>	Lizard Buzzard	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Melierax metabates</i>	Dark Chanting-goshawk	Af WP	not a migrant	LC
<i>Melierax poliopterus</i>	Eastern Chanting-goshawk	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Melierax canorus</i>	Pale Chanting-goshawk	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Melierax gabar</i>	Gabar Goshawk	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Accipiter trivirgatus</i>	Crested Goshawk		not a migrant	LC
<i>Accipiter tachiro</i>	African Goshawk	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Accipiter castanilius</i>	Chestnut-flanked Sparrowhawk	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Accipiter badius</i>	Shikra	Af WP	full migrant	LC
<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>	Levant Sparrowhawk	Af WP	full migrant	LC
<i>Accipiter soloensis</i>	Chinese Goshawk		full migrant	LC
<i>Accipiter francesiae</i>	Frances's Sparrowhawk	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Accipiter erythropus</i>	Red-thighed Sparrowhawk	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Accipiter minullus</i>	Little Sparrowhawk	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Accipiter gularis</i>	Japanese Sparrowhawk		full migrant	LC
<i>Accipiter virgatus</i>	Besra		full migrant	LC
<i>Accipiter madagascariensis</i>	Madagascar Sparrowhawk	Af	not a migrant	NT
<i>Accipiter ovampensis</i>	Ovampo Sparrowhawk	Af	full migrant (G)	LC
<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	Af WP	full migrant	LC
<i>Accipiter rufiventris</i>	Rufous-chested Sparrowhawk	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Accipiter melanoleucus</i>	Black Goshawk	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Accipiter henstii</i>	Henst's Goshawk	Af	not a migrant	NT
<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	Northern Goshawk	WP	full migrant	LC
<i>Urotriorchis macrourus</i>	Long-tailed Hawk	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Butastur rufipennis</i>	Grasshopper Buzzard	Af	full migrant (G)	LC
<i>Butastur teesa</i>	White-eyed Buzzard		not a migrant	LC
<i>Butastur liventer</i>	Rufous-winged Buzzard		not a migrant	LC
<i>Butastur indicus</i>	Grey-faced Buzzard		full migrant	LC
<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Common Buzzard	Af WP	full migrant	LC

Scientific name	English name	W Pal & Afro-tropical	Migratory behaviour	Global status
<i>Buteo oreophilus</i>	Mountain Buzzard	Af	full migrant (G)	LC
<i>Buteo brachypterus</i>	Madagascar Buzzard	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Buteo rufinus</i>	Long-legged Buzzard	Af WP	full migrant	LC
<i>Buteo hemilasius</i>	Upland Buzzard		full migrant	LC
<i>Buteo lagopus</i>	Rough-legged Hawk	WP	full migrant	LC
<i>Buteo auguralis</i>	Red-necked Buzzard	Af	full migrant	LC
<i>Buteo augur</i>	Augur Buzzard	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Buteo archeri</i>	Archer's Buzzard	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Buteo rufofuscus</i>	Jackal Buzzard	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Ictinaetus malayensis</i>	Black Eagle		not a migrant	LC
<i>Aquila pomarina</i>	Lesser Spotted Eagle	Af WP	full migrant	LC
<i>Aquila clanga</i>	Greater Spotted Eagle	Af WP	full migrant	VU
<i>Aquila rapax</i>	Tawny Eagle	Af WP	full migrant (BL)	LC
<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>	Steppe Eagle	Af WP	full migrant	LC
<i>Aquila adalberti</i>	Spanish Imperial Eagle	WP	full migrant	VU
<i>Aquila heliaca</i>	Imperial Eagle	Af WP	full migrant	VU
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Golden Eagle	Af WP	full migrant	LC
<i>Aquila verreauxii</i>	Verreaux's Eagle	Af WP	not a migrant	LC
<i>Aquila wahlbergi</i>	Wahlberg's Eagle	Af	full migrant (G)	LC
<i>Hieraaetus fasciatus</i>	Bonelli's Eagle	Af WP	not a migrant	LC
<i>Hieraaetus spilogaster</i>	African Hawk-eagle	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>	Booted Eagle	Af WP	full migrant	LC
<i>Hieraaetus ayresii</i>	Ayres's Hawk-eagle	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Hieraaetus kienerii</i>	Rufous-bellied Eagle		not a migrant	LC
<i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>	Martial Eagle	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Lophaetus occipitalis</i>	Long-crested Eagle	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Spizaetus africanus</i>	Cassin's Hawk-eagle	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Spizaetus nipalensis</i>	Mountain Hawk-eagle		full migrant	LC
<i>Stephanoaetus coronatus</i>	Crowned Hawk-eagle	Af	not a migrant	LC
PANDIONINAE				
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Osprey	Af WP	full migrant	LC
FALCONIDAE				
<i>Polihierax semitorquatus</i>	Pygmy Falcon	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Microhierax caerulescens</i>	Collared Falconet		not a migrant	LC
<i>Microhierax melanoleucus</i>	Pied Falconet		not a migrant	LC
<i>Falco naumanni</i>	Lesser Kestrel	Af WP	full migrant	VU
<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Common Kestrel	Af WP	full migrant	LC
<i>Falco newtoni</i>	Madagascar Kestrel	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Falco punctatus</i>	Mauritius Kestrel	Af	not a migrant	VU
<i>Falco araea</i>	Seychelles Kestrel	Af	not a migrant	VU
<i>Falco rupicoloides</i>	Greater Kestrel	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Falco alopex</i>	Fox Kestrel	Af	full migrant (G)	LC
<i>Falco ardosiaceus</i>	Grey Kestrel	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Falco dickinsoni</i>	Dickinson's Kestrel	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Falco zoniventris</i>	Banded Kestrel	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	Red-footed Falcon	Af WP	full migrant	NT
<i>Falco amurensis</i>	Amur Falcon	Af	full migrant	LC
<i>Falco eleonora</i>	Eleonora's Falcon	Af WP	full migrant	LC
<i>Falco concolor</i>	Sooty Falcon	Af WP	full migrant	LC

Scientific name	English name	W Pal & Afro-tropical	Migratory behaviour	Global status
<i>Falco columbarius</i>	Merlin	WP	full migrant	LC
<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	Eurasian Hobby	Af WP	full migrant	LC
<i>Falco cuvierii</i>	African Hobby	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Falco severus</i>	Oriental Hobby		not a migrant	LC
<i>Falco biarmicus</i>	Lanner Falcon	Af WP	Full migrant (G)	LC
<i>Falco jugger</i>	Laggar Falcon		not a migrant	NT
<i>Falco cherrug</i>	Saker Falcon	Af WP	full migrant	EN
<i>Falco rusticolus</i>	Gyrfalcon	WP	full migrant	LC
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Peregrine Falcon	Af WP	full migrant	LC
<i>Falco pelegrinoides</i>	Barbary Falcon	Af WP	full migrant (BL)	LC
<i>Falco fasciinucha</i>	Taita Falcon	Af	not a migrant	NT
TYTONIDAE				
<i>Tyto soumagnei</i>	Madagascar Red Owl	Af	not a migrant	EN
<i>Tyto alba</i>	Barn Owl	Af WP	not a migrant	LC
<i>Tyto capensis</i>	African Grass-owl	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Tyto longimembris</i>	Eastern Grass-owl		not a migrant	LC
<i>Phodilus prigoginei</i>	Congo Bay-owl	Af	not a migrant	EN
<i>Phodilus badius</i>	Oriental Bay-owl		not a migrant	LC
STRIGIDAE				
<i>Otus icterorhynchus</i>	Sandy Scops-owl	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Otus ireneae</i>	Sokoke Scops-owl	Af	not a migrant	EN
<i>Otus spilocephalus</i>	Mountain Scops-owl		not a migrant	LC
<i>Otus hartlaubi</i>	São Tomé Scops-owl	Af	not a migrant	VU
<i>Otus brucei</i>	Pallid Scops-owl	WP	full migrant	LC
<i>Otus scops</i>	Common Scops-owl	Af WP	full migrant	LC
<i>Otus senegalensis</i>	African Scops-owl	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Otus sunia</i>	Oriental Scops-owl		not a migrant	LC
<i>Otus elegans</i>	Elegant Scops-owl		not a migrant	NT
<i>Otus magicus</i>	Moluccan Scops-owl	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Otus insularis</i>	Seychelles Scops-owl	Af	not a migrant	EN
<i>Otus rutilus</i>	Malagasy Scops-owl	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Otus pemaensis</i>	Pemba Scops-owl	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Otus capnodes</i>	Anjouan Scops-owl	Af	not a migrant	CR
<i>Otus moheliensis</i>	Moheli Scops-owl	Af	not a migrant	CR
<i>Otus pauliani</i>	Grand Comoro Scops-owl	Af	not a migrant	CR
<i>Otus bakkamoena</i>	Collared Scops-owl		not a migrant	LC
<i>Otus leucotis</i>	White-faced Scops-owl	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Bubo bubo</i>	Eurasian Eagle-owl	Af WP	not a migrant	LC
<i>Bubo ascalaphus</i>	Pharaoh Eagle-owl	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Bubo capensis</i>	Cape Eagle-owl	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Bubo africanus</i>	Spotted Eagle-owl	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Bubo poensis</i>	Fraser's Eagle-owl	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Bubo vosseleri</i>	Usambara Eagle-owl	Af	not a migrant	VU
<i>Bubo nipalensis</i>	Spot-bellied Eagle-owl		not a migrant	LC
<i>Bubo shelleyi</i>	Shelley's Eagle-owl	Af	not a migrant	NT
<i>Bubo lacteus</i>	Verreaux's Eagle-owl	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Bubo coromandus</i>	Dusky Eagle-owl		not a migrant	LC
<i>Bubo leucostictus</i>	Akun Eagle-owl	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Ketupa blakistoni</i>	Blakiston's Fish-owl		not a migrant	EN

Scientific name	English name	W Pal & Afro-tropical	Migratory behaviour	Global status
<i>Ketupa zeylonensis</i>	Brown Fish-owl	Af WP	not a migrant	LC
<i>Ketupa flavipes</i>	Tawny Fish-owl		not a migrant	LC
<i>Scotopelia peli</i>	Pel's Fishing-owl	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Scotopelia ussheri</i>	Rufous Fishing-owl	Af	not a migrant	EN
<i>Scotopelia bouvieri</i>	Vermiculated Fishing-owl	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Nyctea scandiaca</i>	Snowy Owl	WP	full migrant	LC
<i>Strix leptogrammica</i>	Brown Wood-owl		not a migrant	LC
<i>Strix aluco</i>	Tawny Owl	WP	not a migrant	LC
<i>Strix butleri</i>	Hume's Owl	WP	not a migrant	LC
<i>Strix uralensis</i>	Ural Owl	WP	full migrant	LC
<i>Strix nebulosa</i>	Great Grey Owl	WP	full migrant	LC
<i>Strix woodfordii</i>	African Wood-owl	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Jubula lettii</i>	Maned Owl	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Surnia ulula</i>	Northern Hawk Owl	WP	full migrant	LC
<i>Glaucidium passerinum</i>	Eurasian Pygmy-owl	WP	not a migrant	LC
<i>Glaucidium brodiei</i>	Collared Owlet		not a migrant	LC
<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>	Pearl-spotted Owlet	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Glaucidium tephronotum</i>	Red-chested Owlet	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Glaucidium sjostedti</i>	Sjostedt's Owlet	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Glaucidium cuculoides</i>	Asian Barred Owlet		not a migrant	LC
<i>Glaucidium capense</i>	African Barred Owlet	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Glaucidium castaneum</i>	Chestnut Owlet	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Glaucidium albertinum</i>	Albertine Owlet	Af	not a migrant	VU
<i>Athene noctua</i>	Little Owl	Af WP	not a migrant	LC
<i>Athene brama</i>	Spotted Owlet		not a migrant	LC
<i>Aegolius funereus</i>	Boreal Owl	WP	full migrant	LC
<i>Ninox scutulata</i>	Brown Hawk-owl		full migrant	LC
<i>Ninox supercilialis</i>	White-browed Hawk-owl	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Asio otus</i>	Long-eared Owl	WP	full migrant	LC
<i>Asio abyssinicus</i>	Abyssinian Owl	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Asio madagascariensis</i>	Madagascar Owl	Af	not a migrant	LC
<i>Asio flammeus</i>	Short-eared Owl	Af WP	full migrant (BL)	LC
<i>Asio capensis</i>	Marsh Owl	Af WP	not a migrant	LC

NOTE to table: species not listed as migratory in GROMS, but listed as migratory by BirdLife World Bird Database

Aquila rapax

Tawny Eagle

GROMS text: Resident in most areas but perhaps some seasonal movement into more arid areas in SW and NE Africa during the rainy season; also some birds perform seasonal N-S movements in W Africa. Often mixes with flocks of migrant *A. nipalensis*. Rare vagrant to Bangladesh, NW Thailand and perhaps Sri Lanka. (del Hoyo J Elliott A, Sargatal J (eds) 1994). Conclusion: Migrant (although only some populations)

Falco pelegrinoides

Barbary Falcon

GROMS text: Not listed. Treated as a sub-species in del Hoyo *et al.* Conclusion: Migratory status uncertain, but in the absence of any further information, follow BirdLife and treated as a migrant.

Milvus lineatus

Black-eared Kite

GROMS Text: None, presumably because treated as subspecies of *Milvus migrans* by del Hoyo *et al.* 1994. But Del Hoyo state in text that subspecies lineatus is migratory. Conclusion: Migratory (follow WBDB)

Asio flammeus

Short-eared Owl

GROMS Text: Not listed. Conclusion: Migratory (GROMS error).

ANNEX 4

African-Eurasian Countries where Globally Threatened and Near-Threatened Migratory Raptors Regularly Occur

	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>	<i>Aquila adalberti</i>	<i>Aquila clanga</i>	<i>Aquila heliaca</i>	<i>Circus macrourus</i>	<i>Circus maurus</i>	<i>Falco cherrug</i>	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	Grand Total
Afghanistan	+		+	+	+		+	+			6
Albania			+		+			+	+	+	5
Algeria					+			+	+	+	4
Angola					+			+	+		3
Armenia	+		+	+	+		+	+	+		7
Austria			+				+		+	+	4
Azerbaijan	+		+	+	+		+	+	+		7
Bahrain					+		+	+			3
Belarus			+		+		+		+	+	5
Belgium										+	1
Benin					+			+			2
Bosnia and Herzegovina			+	+				+	+	+	5
Botswana					+	+		+	+		4
Bulgaria	+		+	+	+		+	+	+	+	8
Burkina Faso					+			+	+		3
Burundi					+			+	+		3
Cameroon					+				+		2
Cape Verde										+	1
Central African Republic					+			+			2
Chad					+			+	+		3
China (mainland)	+		+	+	+		+	+			6
Congo								+			1
Congo, The Democratic Republic of the					+			+	+		3
Côte d'Ivoire					+			+	+		3
Croatia	+		+	+	+		+	+	+	+	8
Cyprus				+	+		+	+	+		5
Czech Republic				+	+		+		+	+	5
Denmark					+				+	+	3
Djibouti			+	+	+			+			4
Egypt			+	+	+		+	+	+	+	7
Eritrea			+		+			+			3
Estonia			+						+		2
Ethiopia			+	+	+		+	+	+		6
Finland			+		+				+		3
France			+		+			+	+	+	5
Gabon								+			1
Gambia					+			+			2
Georgia	+		+	+	+			+	+	+	7
Germany					+				+	+	3
Ghana					+						1
Gibraltar (to UK)								+		+	2
Greece	+		+	+	+		+	+	+	+	8

	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>	<i>Aquila adalberti</i>	<i>Aquila clanga</i>	<i>Aquila heliaca</i>	<i>Circus macrourus</i>	<i>Circus maurus</i>	<i>Falco cherrug</i>	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	Grand Total
Guinea								+			1
Guinea-Bissau					+						1
Hungary			+	+			+		+	+	5
Iran, Islamic Republic of	+		+	+	+		+	+	+	+	8
Iraq			+	+	+		+	+	+		6
Israel	+		+	+	+		+	+	+		7
Italy			+		+		+	+	+	+	6
Jordan			+	+	+		+	+	+		6
Kazakhstan	+		+	+	+		+	+	+		7
Kenya			+	+	+		+	+	+		6
Kuwait			+	+	+		+	+			5
Kyrgyzstan	+						+		+		3
Latvia			+						+	+	3
Lebanon	+		+	+	+			+		+	6
Lesotho						+		+	+		3
Liberia					+			+	+		3
Libya					+		+	+	+	+	5
Liechtenstein									+	+	2
Lithuania			+							+	2
Luxembourg										+	1
Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of			+	+	+			+	+	+	6
Malawi					+			+	+		3
Mali					+			+	+		3
Malta					+		+	+	+		4
Mauritania					+		+	+	+		4
Moldova			+	+	+		+	+	+	+	7
Mongolia	+		+	+	+		+	+			6
Morocco			+					+	+	+	4
Mozambique					+			+			2
Namibia					+	+		+	+		4
Netherlands										+	1
Niger					+			+			2
Nigeria					+			+	+		3
Oman			+	+	+		+	+	+		6
Palestinian Authority Territories					+			+			2
Poland			+						+	+	3
Portugal								+		+	2
Qatar			+		+			+			3
Romania				+	+		+	+	+	+	6
Russia	+		+	+	+		+	+	+	+	6
Rwanda					+			+	+		3
Saudi Arabia	+		+	+	+		+	+			6
Senegal					+			+	+		3
Serbia and Montenegro	+		+	+	+		+	+	+	+	8
Sierra Leone					+			+			2
Slovakia			+	+	+		+		+	+	6
Slovenia			+		+				+	+	4
Somalia					+			+			2

	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>	<i>Aquila adalberti</i>	<i>Aquila clanga</i>	<i>Aquila heliaca</i>	<i>Circus macrourus</i>	<i>Circus maurus</i>	<i>Falco cherrug</i>	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	Grand Total
South Africa					+	+		+	+		4
Spain	+	+	+	+			+	+		+	7
Sudan	+		+	+	+		+	+	+		7
Swaziland					+						1
Sweden									+	+	2
Switzerland									+	+	2
Syria	+		+	+	+		+	+	+		7
Tajikistan	+						+		+		3
Tanzania			+	+	+			+	+		5
Thailand	+		+	+							3
Togo					+			+			2
Tunisia					+		+	+	+	+	5
Turkey	+		+	+	+		+	+	+	+	8
Turkmenistan	+			+				+	+	+	5
Uganda					+			+			2
Ukraine	+		+	+	+		+	+	+	+	8
United Arab Emirates			+	+	+		+	+			5
United Kingdom									+	+	2
Uzbekistan	+			+			+	+	+		5
Yemen			+	+	+		+	+			5
Zambia					+			+	+		3
Zimbabwe					+			+	+		3
Total	38	1	67	57	92	4	49	89	76	45	518

Source: BirdLife International World Bird Database, www.birdlife.org (accessed 23 June 2005).

ANNEX 5

The Regional Status of African-Eurasian Migratory Raptors and Owls

Key

Global Status	CR = Critical EN = Endangered VU = Vulnerable NT = Near Threatened LC = Least Concern
European Species of Conservation Concern (SPEC)	SPEC 1 = Species of Global Conservation Concern (i.e. classified as Globally Threatened, Near Threatened or Data Deficient) SPEC 2 = Species that are concentrated in Europe and have an unfavourable conservation status; SPEC 3 = Species that are not concentrated in Europe but have an unfavourable conservation status. <i>Status refers to breeding population.</i>
b	Breeding population
m	only occurs on migration
w	occurs in winter (non-breeding season) and on migration
wss	wintering population in sub-Saharan
European Threat Status	CR = Critical EN = Endangered VU = Vulnerable D = Declining R = Rare H = Depleted S = Secure
Qualifying criteria for Africa, Asia and the Middle East	d = declining in numbers or range r = rare or depleted population h = threatened by habitat loss <i>The status regarding Asia refers to Western Palearctic populations that occur (e.g. breed) within Asia</i>
FC	Favourable Conservation Status
?	Unknown status, or uncertain status if combined with UCS or FC

Species with an Unfavourable Conservation Status (UCS) according to CMS (see Annex 2) are indicated in **bold**.

Species	English Name	Global Status	European SPEC	European Threat Status	Asia*	Middle-east	Africa	Refs
<i>Aviceda cuculoides</i>	African Baza	LC	-	-	-	-	?	
<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	European Honey-buzzard	LC	N	(S)	?	m	w	
<i>Pernis ptilorhyncus</i>	Oriental Honey-buzzard	LC	m	m	?	m	-	
<i>Chelictinia riocourii</i>	African Swallow-tailed Kite	LC	-	-	-	-	UCSd	7
<i>Milvus milvus</i>	Red Kite	NT	2^{*1}	D	-	-	UCSr	
<i>Milvus migrans</i>	Black Kite	LC	3	(VU)	UCS?	FC?	UCd?	7
<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	White-tailed Eagle	LC	1^{*1}	R	FC?	?	-	1
<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	Egyptian Vulture	LC	3	EN	?	FC?	?	
<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	Eurasian Griffon	LC	N	S	FC?	?	?	
<i>Aegypius monachus</i>	Cinereous Vulture	NT	1	R	?	w	w	1,2
<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	Short-toed Snake-eagle	LC	3	(R)	?	?	b? wss	
<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Western Marsh-harrier	LC	N	S	FC	m	m	
<i>Circus maurus</i>	Black Harrier	VU	-	-	-	-	UCSrh	1,4
<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Northern Harrier	LC	3	H	?	w	w	
<i>Circus macrourus</i>	Pallid Harrier	NT	1	(EN)	?	w	w	1,9
<i>Circus pygargus</i>	Montagu's Harrier	LC	N	S	FC?	m	b? w	
<i>Accipiter badius</i>	Shikra	LC	N	(S)	?	m	FC?	
<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>	Levant Sparrowhawk	LC	2	(VU)	FC?	m	w	
<i>Accipiter ovampensis</i>	Ovampo Sparrowhawk	LC	-	-	-	-	FC?	
<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	LC	N	S	FC?	w	b? wss	
<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	Northern Goshawk	LC	N	S	FC	-	?	
<i>Buteo rufipennis</i>	Grasshopper Buzzard	LC	-	-	-	-	?	
<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Common Buzzard	LC	N	S	?	w	w	
<i>Buteo oreophilus</i>	Mountain Buzzard	LC	-	-	-	-	FC?	
<i>Buteo rufinus</i>	Long-legged Buzzard	LC	3	(VU)	?	?	?	

Species	English Name	Global Status	European SPEC	European Threat Status	Asia*	Middle-east	Africa	Refs
<i>Buteo lagopus</i>	Rough-legged Hawk	LC	N	(S)	FC?	-	-	
<i>Buteo auguralis</i>	Red-necked Buzzard	LC	-	-	-	-	FC?	
<i>Aquila pomarina</i>	Lesser Spotted Eagle	LC	2	(D)	UCSd?	m	w	6
<i>Aquila clanga</i>	Greater Spotted Eagle	VU	1	EN	?	w	w	1,2
<i>Aquila rapax</i>	Tawny Eagle	LC	-	-	-	?	UCSd	5,7,8
<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>	Steppe Eagle	LC	3	(EN)	UCSd?	w	w	6
<i>Aquila adalberti</i>	Spanish Imperial Eagle	EN	1	(EN)	-	-	w	
<i>Aquila heliaca</i>	Imperial Eagle	VU	1	R	UCSd?	w	w	1,2
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Golden Eagle	LC	3	R	?	?	?	
<i>Aquila wahlbergi</i>	Wahlberg's Eagle	LC	-	-	-	-	FC?	
<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>	Booted Eagle	LC	3	(R)	?	m	b? w	
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Osprey	LC	3	R	?	UCS?	FC?	
<i>Falco naumanni</i>	Lesser Kestrel	VU	1	H	?	UCSr	w	1,2
<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Common Kestrel	LC	3	D	UCSd?	?	?	
<i>Falco alopex</i>	Fox Kestrel	LC	-	-	-	-	FC?	
<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	Red-footed Falcon	NT	3 ^{*1}	(VU)	?	m	w	
<i>Falco amurensis</i>	Amur Falcon	LC	-	-	FC?	-	w	
<i>Falco eleonora</i>	Eleonora's Falcon	LC	2	D	-	m	b? w	
<i>Falco concolor</i>	Sooty Falcon	LC	-	-	?	FC?	FC?	
<i>Falco columbarius</i>	Merlin	LC	N	(S)	?	w	w	
<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	Eurasian Hobby	LC	N	(S)	?	m	w	
<i>Falco biarmicus</i>	Lanner Falcon	LC	3	VU	-	FC?	UCd?	5,7
<i>Falco cherrug</i>	Saker Falcon	EN	1	EN	UCSd	w	w	2,3
<i>Falco rusticolus</i>	Gyrfalcon	LC	3	(R)	?	-	-	
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Peregrine Falcon	LC	N	S	?	?	?	
<i>Falco pelegrinoides</i>	Barbary Falcon	LC	N	S	-	?	?	
<i>Otus brucei</i>	Pallid Scops-owl	LC	3	CR	?	?	-	
<i>Otus scops</i>	Common Scops-owl	LC	2	(H)	?	m	b? w	
<i>Nyctea scandiaca</i>	Snowy Owl	LC	3	(R)	?	-	-	

Species	English Name	Global Status	European SPEC	European Threat Status	Asia*	Middle-east	Africa	Refs
<i>Strix uralensis</i>	Ural Owl	LC	N	(S)	?	-	-	
<i>Strix nebulosa</i>	Great Grey Owl	LC	N	(S)	?	-	-	
<i>Surnia ulula</i>	Northern Hawk Owl	LC	N	(S)	?	-	-	
<i>Aegolius funereus</i>	Boreal Owl	LC	N	(S)	?	-	-	
<i>Asio otus</i>	Long-eared Owl	LC	N	(S)	?	?	?	
<i>Asio flammeus</i>	Short-eared Owl	LC	3	(H)	?	w	w	

Sources. Global Threat Status: BirdLife International World Bird Database (www.birdlife.org, accessed 20 June 2005). European Threat Status: BirdLife International (2004c).

Other regions - general: del Hoyo *et al.* (1994, 1999), Ferguson-Lees *et al.* (2001). Specific species references (see table code): 1 BirdLife International (2004a); 2 BirdLife (2001); 3 Galushin (2004); 4 Curtis *et al.* (2004); 5 Barnes (2000); 6 Shirihi *et al.* (2000); 7 Thiollay (in press-c); 8 Simmons & Brown (2005); 9 Galushin *et al.* (2003).

Note. *1 Global status changed since publication of BirdLife International 2004c.

ANNEX 6

Important Birds Areas in Europe, the Middle East and Africa that are Significant for Passage Raptors and their Protection Status

This should be treated as a minimum list of internationally important areas requiring protection for migratory raptors. Other sites of equal or greater importance may be discovered with further knowledge and appropriate protection measures will also be required for nationally and regionally important sites.

Key

X	Sites qualify according to the criteria of that column		
Criteria	A1	= The site regularly holds significant numbers of Globally Threatened species, or other species of global conservation concern	
	A4iv	= Global importance 'bottleneck' site where at least 20,000 storks, raptors, or cranes pass during spring or autumn migration	
	B4iv	= European (or regional) importance 'bottleneck' site where over 5,000 storks, or over 3,000 raptors or cranes regularly pass on spring or autumn migration	
Protection levels	H	= High	
	P	= Partial	
	L	= Low	
	N	= None	
	?	= uncertain	
	blank	= not mentioned, and therefore probably none	
Protection type	NR	= Nature Reserve	
	NP	= National Park	
	NGR	= National Game Reserve	
	WR	= Wildlife Refuge	
	SPA	= EU Special Protection Area	
	Zap	= <i>Zapovednik</i> (strict nature reserve)	
	BR	= Biosphere Reserve	
	R	= Ramsar Site	
	WHR	= World Heritage Site	

Country / IBA International name	Qualifying level and criteria			National protection		International protection	
	Global spp (A1)	Global (A4iv)	Regional (B4iv)	Level	Type	Level	Type
Bulgaria							
Atanasovo lake	X	X	X	H	NR	P	R
Mandra-Poda complex			X	P		N	
Denmark							
Gilleleje area			X	N		N	
Hellebæk			X	N		N	
Korshage, Hundested and surrounding sea area			X	L		H	SPA
Marstal Bugt and the coast of south-west Langeland			X	L		H	SPA
Skagen			X	N		N	

Country / IBA International name	Qualifying level and criteria			National protection		International protection	
	Global spp (A1)	Global (A4iv)	Regional (B4iv)	Level	Type	Level	Type
Stevns		X	X	N		N	
Djibouti							
Kadda Guéini - Doumêra		X	---	N		N	
Egypt							
Ain Sukhna	X	X	---	N		N	
El Qa plain	X	X	---	N		N	
Gebel El Zeit	X	X	---	N		N	
Ras Mohammed National Park	X	X	---	H	NP	N	
Suez	X	X	---	N		N	
Finland							
Merenkurkku archipelago			X	N		P	R
France							
Basses Corbières		X	X	L		N	
Col de l'Escrinet		X	X	N		N	
Col de Lizarrieta			X	N		N	
Etangs de Leucate et Lapalme		X	X	L		N	
Etangs Narbonnais			X	P		N	
Gorges de la Dordogne			X	N		N	
Haute chaîne du Jura: défilé de l'écluse, Etournel et Mont Vuache		X	X	H		N	
Haute Soule : Forêt d'Irraty, Organbidexka et Pic des Escaliers		X	X	N		N	
Hautes Corbières			X	L		N	
Hautes garrigues du Montpelierais			X	N		N	
Massif du Canigou-Carança		X	X	P		P	
Montagne de la Clape			X	N		P	SPA
Montagne de la Serre			X	N		N	
Monts et Plomb du Cantal			X	L		P	SPA
Pointe de Grave			X	N		N	
Val d'Allier : Saint-Yorre-Joze			X	P		N	
Val de Drôme: Les Ramières-printegarde			X	P		P	SPA
Vallée de la Nive des Aldudes-Col de Lindux		X	X	N		N	
Georgia							
Kolkheti		X	X	H	NP	H	R
Meskheta	X		X	P	NR	N	
Gibraltar (to UK)							
Rock of Gibraltar	X	X	X	H		H	
Greece							
North, east and south Kithira island			X	P	WR	L	SPA
Iraq							
Samara dam			X	N		N	
Israel							
Cliffs of Zin and the Negev highlands			X	P		N	
Hula valley	X	X	X	H	NR	N	
Jezre'el, Harod and Bet She'an valleys	X	X	X	L	NR	N	
Judean desert	X		X	H	NR NP	N	
Judean foothills	X		X	N		N	
Northern Arava valley		X	X	P	NR	N	

Country / IBA International name	Qualifying level and criteria			National protection		International protection	
	Global spp (A1)	Global (A4iv)	Regional (B4iv)	Level	Type	Level	Type
Northern lower Jordan valley		X	X	P	NR	N	
Southern Arava valley and Elat mountains	X	X	X	P	NR	N	
Western Negev	X	X	X	P	NR	N	
Italy							
Aspromonte			X	P	NP	N	
Cape Otranto			X	N		N	
Costa Viola	X		X	N		N	
Maritime Alps			X	P	NR NP	N	
Mount Beigua			X	P	NP	N	
Mount Conero			X	H	NP	N	
Mount Grappa			X	N		N	
Peloritani mountains		X	X	N		P	SPA
Piave river			X	N		N	
Jordan							
Aqaba mountains	?	X	X	N		N	
Jordan valley			X	N		N	
Petra area			X	P	NP	L	WHR
Wadi Dana - Finan	X	X	X	H	NR	N	
Wadi Mujib			X	H	NR	N	
Kuwait							
Al-Jahra Pool Nature Reserve	X		X	P	NR	N	
Latvia							
Slitere Nature Reserve		X	X	H	NR	N	
Lebanon							
Ammiq swamp			X	H	NR	H	R
Lithuania							
Kuronian spit		?	X	H	NP	N	
Malta							
Buskett and Wied il-Luq			X	H	NR	N	
Morocco							
Cap Spartel - Perdicaris		X	---	H		N	
Jbel Moussa		X	---	N		N	
Palestinian Authority Territories							
Jericho	?	?	X	N		N	
Northern Lower Jordan Valley		X	X	P	NR	N	
Portugal							
South-west coast of Portugal			X	H	NP	H	SPA
Russia (European)							
Caucasus Biosphere Reserve			X	H	Z	H	BR
Chudsko-Pskovski Lake and adjacent areas		X	X	P	Z	P	R
Delta of the River Don	X		X	P	Z	N	
Irendyk ridge		X	X	N		N	
Teberdinski Nature Reserve	X		X	H	Z	N	
Saudi Arabia							
Taif escarpment			X	N		N	
Wadi Jawwah	X		X	N		N	
Wadi Rabigh springs			X	N		N	

Country / IBA International name	Qualifying level and criteria			National protection		International protection	
	Global spp (A1)	Global (A4iv)	Regional (B4iv)	Level	Type	Level	Type
Spain							
Bujeo, Ojén, del Niño and Blanquilla mountain ranges		X	X	H	NP	H	SPA
Cabras, Aljibe and Montecoche mountain range		X	X	H	NP	H	SPA
Cadí mountains			X	P	NGR NP	P	SPA
Ceuta	X	X	X	N		N	
De la Plata mountain range		X	X	N		N	
Guadalquivir marshes		X	X	P	NP	P	SPA R BR WHS
La Janda		X	X	N		N	
Roncesvalles-Irati-Abodi mountain range			X	L	NR	P	SPA
Tarifa	X	X	X	L		N	
Sweden							
Bay of Skälderviken			X	P	NR	P	SPA
Falsterbo-Bay of Foteviken		X	X	P	NR	P	SPA R
Switzerland							
Pre-alpine region of Gurnigel			X	P		N	
Syria							
Jabal Slensfeh			X	N		N	
Tunisia							
Djebel el Haouaria		X	---	P	HR	N	
Turkey							
Bosporus		X	X	P	NR	N	
North-east Turkey		X	X	P	NR NP	N	
Nur mountains		X	X	P	NR	N	
Yemen							
Al-Kadan area	X		X	N		N	
Bab al-Mandab - Mawza		X	X	N		N	
Mafrq al-Mukha	X		X	N		N	
Wadi Rijaf			X	N		N	

Source: BirdLife International World Bird Database (accessed March 2005).

ANNEX 7

Multilateral Environmental Agreements with Provisions Applicable to the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Raptors

EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

Full title Council of Europe European Landscape Convention (Florence 2000)
Web page http://www.coe.int/T/E/Cultural_Co-operation/Environment/Landscape/
No. Signatories 16

Relevant provisions

Article 3 – Aims

The aims of this Convention are to promote landscape protection, management and planning, and to organise European co-operation on landscape issues.

Article 5 – General measures

Each Party undertakes :

- a. to recognise landscapes in law as an essential component of people's surroundings, an expression of the diversity of their shared cultural and natural heritage, and a foundation of their identity;
- d. to integrate landscape into its regional and town planning policies and in its cultural, environmental, agricultural, social and economic policies, as well as in any other policies with possible direct or indirect impact on landscape.

Article 9 – Transfrontier landscapes

The Signatories shall encourage transfrontier co-operation on local and regional level and, wherever necessary, prepare and implement joint landscape programmes.

Remarks

The European Landscape Convention is a relatively new convention, having come into force only in March 2004, and has just 16 Signatories. Thus, it is too early to judge whether it will have the desired effect for the landscape-scale habitat protection that would benefit raptors. On the other hand, there are clearly opportunities for using this convention as it matures.

CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Full title UN Convention on Biological Diversity (Rio de Janeiro 1992)
Web page <http://www.biodiv.org/>
No. Signatories 188

Relevant provisions

Article 1 – Objectives

The objectives of this Convention, to be pursued in accordance with its relevant provisions, are the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and to technologies, and by appropriate funding.

Article 6 – General Measures for Conservation and Sustainable Use

Each Contracting Party shall, in accordance with its particular conditions and capabilities:
(a) Develop national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity or adapt for this purpose existing strategies, plans or programmes which shall reflect, inter alia, the measures set out in this Convention relevant to the Contracting Party concerned; and

(b) Integrate, as far as possible and as appropriate, the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies.

Article 8 – In-situ Conservation

Each Contracting Party shall, as far as possible and as appropriate:

(d) Promote the protection of ecosystems, natural habitats and the maintenance of viable populations of species in natural surroundings;

(f) Rehabilitate and restore degraded ecosystems and promote the recovery of threatened species, inter alia, through the development and implementation of plans or other management strategies;

2010 Biodiversity Target

In 2002, the 6th Conference of the Signatories adopted a Strategic Plan in which Signatories committed themselves to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on earth. This target has been widely re-affirmed at various subsequent intergovernmental conferences, and indeed in Europe was strengthened by the Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment in Europe held in Kiev (Ukraine) in 2003 to “halt” the loss of biodiversity by 2010.

The Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy

PEBLDS is the Pan-European response to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) that seeks to stop and reverse the degradation of biological and landscape diversity values in Europe. A major tool in this regard is the development of the *Pan-European Ecological Network* (PEEN), that contributes to achieving the main goals of the Strategy by ensuring that: a full range of ecosystems, habitats, species and their genetic diversity and landscapes of European importance are conserved; habitats are large enough to place species in a favourable conservation status; there are sufficient opportunities for the dispersal and migrations of species; and damaged elements of the key systems are restored and the systems are buffered from potential threats. PEEN intends to link core areas physically through the restoration or preservation of corridors. PEBLDS was endorsed in 1995 by 53 countries including all the countries participating in this project. It has a Secretariat provided jointly between the Council of Europe and UN Economic Commission for Europe.

National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans

Article 6 creates an obligation for national biodiversity planning. The development and adoption of a national biodiversity strategy reflects how a country intends to fulfil the objectives of the Convention in light of specific national circumstances, and the related action plans constitute the sequence of steps to be taken to meet these goals. The EU has adopted a biodiversity strategy for the whole of its territory, and the vast majority of other countries in Afro-Eurasian region have also prepared BSAPs as this is a prerequisite for project funding by the Global Environment Facility.

CLIMATE CHANGE CONVENTION

Full title	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (New York 1992)
Web page	http://unfccc.int/2860.php
No. Signatories	194

Relevant provisions

Article 2 – Objective

The ultimate objective of this Convention and any related legal instruments that the Conference of the Signatories may adopt is to achieve, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention, stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. Such a level should be achieved within a time-frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner.

Article 4 – Commitments

1. All Signatories, taking into account their common but differentiated responsibilities and their specific national and regional development priorities, objectives and circumstances, shall:
 - (d) Promote sustainable management, and promote and cooperate in the conservation and enhancement, as appropriate, of sinks and reservoirs of all 11 greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol, including biomass, forests and oceans as well as other terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems;
 - (e) Cooperate in preparing for adaptation to the impacts of climate change; develop and elaborate appropriate and integrated plans for coastal zone management, water resources and agriculture, and for the protection and rehabilitation of areas, particularly in Africa, affected by drought and desertification, as well as floods;

Kyoto Protocol

The 1997 Kyoto Protocol that came into force in February 2005 shares the Convention's objective, principles and institutions, but significantly strengthens the Convention by committing Signatories from developed countries to individual, legally-binding targets to limit or reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. These add up to a total cut in greenhouse-gas emissions of at least 5% from 1990 levels in the commitment period 2008-2012. This has prompted a number of initiatives including carbon sequestration through investing in "sinks" such as (re-)afforestation or arable reversion to grassland. Such schemes have the potential for expanding the habitat available for forest- and steppe-dwelling raptors.

CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

Full title	UN Convention to Combat Desertification (Paris 1994)
Web page	http://www.unccd.int/main.php
No. Signatories	191

Relevant provisions

Article 2 – Objective

1. The objective of this Convention is to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa, through effective action at all levels, supported by international cooperation and partnership arrangements, in the framework of an integrated approach which is consistent with Agenda 21, with a view to contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in affected areas.
2. Achieving this objective will involve long-term integrated strategies that focus simultaneously, in affected areas, on improved productivity of land, and the rehabilitation, conservation and sustainable management of land and water resources, leading to improved living conditions, in particular at the community level.

Article 7 – Priority for Africa

In implementing this Convention, the Signatories shall give priority to affected African country Signatories, in the light of the particular situation prevailing in that region, while not neglecting affected developing country Signatories in other regions.

Article 9 – Basic approach

1. In carrying out their obligations pursuant to article 5, affected developing country Signatories and any other affected country Party in the framework of its regional implementation annex or, otherwise, that has notified the Permanent Secretariat in writing of its intention to prepare a national action programme, shall, as appropriate, prepare, make public and implement national action programmes, utilizing and building, to the extent possible, on existing relevant successful plans and programmes, and sub-regional and regional action programmes, as the central element of the strategy to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought. Such programmes shall be updated through a continuing participatory process on the basis of lessons from field action, as well as the results of research. The preparation of national action programmes shall be closely interlinked with other efforts to formulate national policies for sustainable development.

National action programmes

Signatories implement the Convention by developing and carrying out national, sub-regional, and regional action programmes (Article 9). Criteria for preparing these programmes are detailed in the treaty's five "regional implementation annexes": Africa (considered a priority under Article 7 because that is where desertification is most severe), Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Northern Mediterranean, and Central and Eastern Europe. The Convention states that these programmes must adopt a democratic, bottom-up approach. They should emphasize popular participation and the creation of an "enabling environment" designed to allow local people to help themselves to reverse land degradation. However, governments remain responsible for creating this enabling environment and must make politically sensitive changes, such as decentralising authority, improving land-tenure systems, and empowering women, farmers, and pastoralists. They should also permit non-governmental organizations to play a strong role in preparing and implementing the action programmes. Between 2000 and 2004, 32 African countries had prepared NAPs. In addition there are four sub-regional programmes, including one for the Sahel where many migratory raptors winter, and thematic programme networks for:

Integrated management of international river, lake and hydro-geological basins.

Promotion of agroforestry and soil conservation.

Rational use of rangelands and promotion of fodder crops development.

Ecological monitoring, natural resources mapping, remote sensing and early warning systems.

Promotion of new and renewable energy sources and technologies.

Promotion of sustainable agricultural farming systems.

EC BIRDS DIRECTIVE

Full title Council Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC)

Web page <http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/nature/>

No. Signatories 25

Relevant provisions

Article 1

1. This directive relates to the conservation of all species of naturally occurring birds in the wild state in the European territory of the member states to which the treaty applies. It covers the protection, management and control of these species and lays down rules for their exploitation.

Article 2

Member states shall take the requisite measures to maintain the population of the species referred to in Article 1 at a level which corresponds in particular to ecological, scientific and cultural requirements, while taking account of economic and recreational requirements, or to adapt the population of these species to that level.

Article 3

1. In the light of the requirements referred to in Article 2, member states shall take the requisite measures to preserve, maintain or re-establish a sufficient diversity and area of habitats for all the species of birds referred to in Article 1.

Article 4

1. The species mentioned in Annex I shall be the subject of special conservation measures concerning their habitat in order to ensure their survival and reproduction in their area of distribution. In this connection, account shall be taken of:

(a) species in danger of extinction;

(b) species vulnerable to specific changes in their habitat;

(c) species considered rare because of small populations or restricted local distribution;

(d) other species requiring particular attention for reasons of the specific nature of their habitat.

Trends and variations in population levels shall be taken into account as a background for evaluations. Member states shall classify in particular the most suitable territories in number and size as special protection areas for the conservation of these species, taking into account their protection requirements in the geographical sea and land area where this Directive applies.

2. Member states shall take similar measures for regularly occurring migratory species not listed in Annex I, bearing in mind their need for protection in the geographical sea and land area where

this directive applies, as regards their breeding, moulting and wintering areas and staging posts along their migration routes. to this end, member states shall pay particular attention to the protection of wetlands and particularly to wetlands of international importance.

Remarks

The Birds Directive also establishes a general system of bird species protection under Article 5 (including their eggs and nests), prohibits trade in live or dead birds (Article 6), and bans large-scale or non-selective means of capture or killing (Article 8).

Stroud (2003) points out that a large proportion of European diurnal raptors (33 of 39 falconiforms) and owls (8 of 13) are listed on Annex I under Article 4 of the Directive. Of the remaining species, most are regular migrants and thus require (where site-based protection is an appropriate conservation measure) the classification of SPAs under Article 4.2. The only non-Annex I listed species which are sedentary are some populations of Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter. gentilis buteoides* and *A. g. gentilis*), sedentary populations of Eurasian Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter n. nisus*), island and central mainland Europe races of Common Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*), and island races of Common Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus alexandri*, *neglectus*, *canariensis* and *dacotiae*).

EC HABITATS DIRECTIVE

Full title	Council Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (92/43/EEC)
Web page	http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/nature/
No. Signatories	25

Relevant provisions

Article 2

1. The aim of this Directive shall be to contribute towards ensuring bio-diversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora in the European territory of the Member States to which the Treaty applies.
2. Measures taken pursuant to this Directive shall be designed to maintain or restore, at favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of Community interest.
3. Measures taken pursuant to this Directive shall take account of economic, social and cultural requirements and regional and local characteristics.

Article 3

1. A coherent European ecological network of special areas of conservation shall be set up under the title Natura 2000. This network, composed of sites hosting the natural habitat types listed in Annex I and habitats of the species listed in Annex II, shall enable the natural habitat types and the species' habitats concerned to be maintained or, where appropriate, restored at a favourable conservation status in their natural range.
The Natura 2000 network shall include the special protection areas classified by the Member States pursuant to [the Birds] Directive 79/409/EEC.
2. Each Member State shall contribute to the creation of Natura 2000 in proportion to the representation within its territory of the natural habitat types and the habitats of species referred to in paragraph 1. To that effect each Member State shall designate, in accordance with Article 4, sites as special areas of conservation taking account of the objectives set out in paragraph 1.
3. Where they consider it necessary, Member States shall endeavour to improve the ecological coherence of Natura 2000 by maintaining, and where appropriate developing, features of the landscape which are of major importance for wild fauna and flora, as referred to in Article 10.

Article 6

2. Member States shall take appropriate steps to avoid, in the special areas of conservation, the deterioration of natural habitats and the habitats of species as well as disturbance of the species for which the areas have been designated, in so far as such disturbance could be significant in relation to the objectives of this Directive.

Article 10

Member States shall endeavour, where they consider it necessary, in their land-use planning and development policies and, in particular, with a view to improving the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network, to encourage the management of features of the landscape which are of major importance for wild fauna and flora.

Remarks

The Habitats Directive largely implements, in the EU territory, the provisions of the Bern Convention (see below), although it has the added strengths of an enforcement mechanism through the European Court of Justice, and co-funding provisions for site management. It elaborates on the site protection system established under the Birds Directive, in particular the concept of an EU-wide ecological network of sites known as Natura 2000.

BERN CONVENTION

Full title	Council of Europe Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern 1979)
Web page	http://www.coe.int/t/e/Cultural_Co-operation/Environment/Nature_and_biological_diversity/Nature_protection/
No. Signatories	45 (including Burkino Faso, Morocco, Senegal, Tunisia; but Russia and Belarus are not Signatories)

Relevant provisions

Article 1

- 1 The aims of this Convention are to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats, especially those species and habitats whose conservation requires the co-operation of several States, and to promote such co-operation.
- 2 Particular emphasis is given to endangered and vulnerable species, including endangered and vulnerable migratory species.

Article 2

The Contracting Signatories shall take requisite measures to maintain the population of wild flora and fauna at, or adapt it to, a level which corresponds in particular to ecological, scientific and cultural requirements, while taking account of economic and recreational requirements and the needs of sub-species, varieties or forms at risk locally.

Article 4

- 1 Each Contracting Party shall take appropriate and necessary legislative and administrative measures to ensure the conservation of the habitats of the wild flora and fauna species, especially those specified in Appendices I and II, and the conservation of endangered natural habitats.
- 3 The Contracting Signatories undertake to give special attention to the protection of areas that are of importance for the migratory species specified in Appendices II and III and which are appropriately situated in relation to migration routes, as wintering, staging, feeding, breeding or moulting areas.

Article 6

Each Contracting Party shall take appropriate and necessary legislative and administrative measures to ensure the special protection of the wild fauna species specified in Appendix II.

Article 10

- 1 The Contracting Signatories undertake, in addition to the measures specified in Articles 4, 6, 7 and 8, to co-ordinate their efforts for the protection of the migratory species specified in Appendices II and III whose range extends into their territories.

Remarks

Annex II of the Bern Convention covers strictly protected fauna species, and includes all species of falconiforms and owls, with no further discrimination of species or populations. As part of its work under the Bern Convention the Council of Europe launched The Emerald Network (Natura 2000 in the EU) to create an ecological network made up of "areas of special conservation interest".

AFRICAN CONVENTION

Full title African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (Algiers 1968)
Web page <http://www.africa-union.org/home/Welcome.htm> [Official Documents]
No. Signatories 30

Relevant provisions

Article VII – Faunal Resources

1. The Contracting States shall ensure conservation, wise use and development of faunal resources and their environment, within the framework of land-use planning and of economic and social development. Management shall be carried out in accordance with plans based on scientific principles, and to that end the Contracting States shall:
- (a) manage wildlife populations inside designated areas according to the objectives of such areas and also manage exploitable wildlife populations outside such areas for an optimum sustained yield, compatible with and complementary to other land uses

Article VIII – Protected Species

- The Contracting States recognize that it is important and urgent to accord a special protection to those animal and plant species that are threatened with extinction, or which may become so, and to the habitat necessary to their survival. Where such a species is represented only in the territory of one Contracting State, that State has a particular responsibility for its protection. These species which are, or may be listed, according to the degree of protection that shall be given to them are placed in Class A or B of the Annex to this Convention, and shall be protected by Contracting States as follows:
- (a) species in Class A shall be totally protected throughout the entire territory of the Contracting States; the hunting, killing, capture or collection of specimens shall be permitted only on the authorization in each case of the highest competent authority and only if required in the national interest or for scientific purposes; and
- (b) species in Class B shall be totally protected, but may be hunted, killed, captured or collected under special authorization granted by the competent authority.

Article X – Conservation Areas

1. The Contracting States shall maintain and extend where appropriate, within their territory and where applicable in their territorial waters, the Conservation areas existing at the time of entry into force of the present convention and, preferably within the framework of land use planning programmes, assess the necessity of establishing additional conservation areas in order to:
- (a) protect those ecosystems which are most representative of and particularly those which are in any respect peculiar to their territories;
- (b) ensure conservation of all species and more particularly of those listed or may be listed in the annex to this convention.

Remarks

Annex A of the Convention includes all vultures, while Annex B covers all raptors. It is not clear how actively the Convention is applied internationally; there are no provisions in it for regular meetings of Signatories.

In July 2003, in Mozambique, the members of the African Union adopted a revised text of the Convention to bring it more in line with recent international conventions such as CBD. It also defines different types of conservation areas. It will enter in to force with the accession of the 15th party – at the time of writing this had not been achieved.

RAMSAR CONVENTION

Full title Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar 1971)
Web page www.ramsar.org
No. Signatories 144

Relevant provisions

Article 2

Each Contracting Party shall designate suitable wetlands within its territory for inclusion in a List of Wetlands of International Importance.

Article 3

The Contracting Signatories shall formulate and implement their planning so as to promote the conservation of the wetlands included in the List, and as far as possible the wise use of wetlands in their territory.

Article 4

Each Contracting Party shall promote the conservation of wetlands and waterfowl by establishing nature reserves on wetlands, whether they are included in the List or not, and provide adequately for their wardening.

Remarks

The Ramsar Convention takes a broad approach in determining the wetlands which come under its aegis. Under the text of the Convention, wetlands are defined as: areas of marsh, fen, peatland or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six metres. Thus, the coverage of the Convention extends to a wide variety of habitat types, including rivers and lakes, coastal lagoons, mangroves, and peatlands, as well as human-made wetlands such as fish ponds, irrigated agricultural land, salt pans, reservoirs, gravel pits, and canals. At least seven of the species of raptors listed in Table 3 are heavily dependent on wetlands for hunting and/or breeding, and the designation and protection of Ramsar Sites therefore assists their conservation.

CITES

Full title	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (Washington 1973)
Web page	www.cites.org
No. Signatories	167

Relevant provisions

Article II – Fundamental Principles

1. Appendix I shall include all species threatened with extinction which are or may be affected by trade. Trade in specimens of these species must be subject to particularly strict regulation in order not to endanger further their survival and must only be authorized in exceptional circumstances.
2. Appendix II shall include:
 - (a) all species which although not necessarily now threatened with extinction may become so unless trade in specimens of such species is subject to strict regulation in order to avoid utilization incompatible with their survival; and
 - (b) other species which must be subject to regulation in order that trade in specimens of certain species referred to in sub-paragraph (a) of this paragraph may be brought under effective control.
3. Appendix III shall include all species which any Party identifies as being subject to regulation within its jurisdiction for the purpose of preventing or restricting exploitation, and as needing the co-operation of other Signatories in the control of trade.

Remarks

Annex I of CITES includes the following species considered in this review: Spanish imperial eagle *Aquila adalberti*, imperial eagle *A. heliaca*, white-tailed eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*, Barbary falcon *F. peregrinoides*, and peregrine falcon *F. peregrinus*. All the rest are listed in Annex II and therefore fall under the provisions for issuing export and import licences. In principle, this means that the trapping and export of species used in falconry should be regulated in a way that does not compromise their conservation status.

BONN CONVENTION

Full title	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn 1979)
Web page	http://www.cms.int/
No. Signatories	89

Relevant provisions

Article II – Fundamental Principles

1. The Signatories acknowledge the importance of migratory species being conserved and of Range States agreeing to take action to this end whenever possible and appropriate, paying special attention to migratory species the conservation status of which is unfavourable, and taking individually or in co-operation appropriate and necessary steps to conserve such species and their habitat.
3. In particular, the Signatories:
 - a) should promote, co-operate in and support research relating to migratory species;
 - b) shall endeavour to provide immediate protection for migratory species included in Appendix I; and
 - c) shall endeavour to conclude Agreements covering the conservation and management of migratory species included in Appendix II.

Article III – Endangered Migratory Species: Appendix I

4. Signatories that are Range States of a migratory species listed in Appendix I shall endeavour:
 - a) to conserve and, where feasible and appropriate, restore those habitats of the species which are of importance in removing the species from danger of extinction;
 - b) to prevent, remove, compensate for or minimize, as appropriate, the adverse effects of activities or obstacles that seriously impede or prevent the migration of the species; and
 - c) to the extent feasible and appropriate, to prevent, reduce or control factors that are endangering or are likely to further endanger the species, including strictly controlling the introduction of, or controlling or eliminating, already introduced exotic species.
5. Signatories that are Range States of a migratory species listed in Appendix I shall prohibit the taking of animals belonging to such species.

Article IV – Migratory Species to be the Subject of Agreements: Appendix II

1. Appendix II shall list migratory species which have an unfavourable conservation status and which require international agreements for their conservation and management, as well as those which have a conservation status which would significantly benefit from the international cooperation that could be achieved by an international agreement.
3. Signatories that are Range States of migratory species listed in Appendix II shall endeavour to conclude Agreements where these should benefit the species and should give priority to those species in an unfavourable conservation status.

Article V – Guidelines for Agreements

1. The object of each Agreement shall be to restore the migratory species concerned to a favourable conservation status or to maintain it in such a status. Each Agreement should deal with those aspects of the conservation and management of the migratory species concerned which serve to achieve that object.
2. Each Agreement should cover the whole of the range of the migratory species concerned and should be open to accession by all Range States of that species, whether or not they are Signatories to this Convention.
3. An Agreement should, wherever possible, deal with more than one migratory species.

Remarks

Annex I of the Bonn Convention contains white-tailed eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*, greater spotted eagle *Aquila clanga*, Spanish imperial eagle *A. adalberti*, imperial eagle *A. heliaca*, and lesser kestrel *Falco*

naumanni, while all the falconiforms (including those listed in Annex I) are listed in Appendix II. However, none of the owls are covered by this Convention.

ANNEX 8

Consultation Response Form

Name		Organisation Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Ministry <input type="checkbox"/> Government Agency <input type="checkbox"/> Research / Academic Institution <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Government Organisation <input type="checkbox"/> Other
Position		
Organisation		
e-mail address		
Telephone		

1. Do you agree with the general conclusion of the status report that few migratory owls have an unfavourable conservation status at present?
☐ Yes
☐ No – please state reasons:

2. Do you agree with the general conclusion of the status report that a high proportion of migratory raptors have an unfavourable conservation status at present?
☐ Yes
☐ No – please state reasons:

3. Do you believe that a new international instrument under CMS covering migratory raptors would lead to improved conservation action for those species having an unfavourable conservation status?
☐ Yes
☐ No – please state reasons:

4. If yes to Question 3, please indicate what type of CMS instrument do you think would be most appropriate to develop in the near future, in order of importance (1 highest to 5 lowest):

Potential CMS Instrument	Importance (Rank 1 – 5)
Action plan only	
Memorandum of Understanding (with Action Plan)	
Agreement under Article IV(4), for selected species and key Range States	
Agreement under Article IV(3) for all migratory raptors and all Range States	
Expansion of AEWA to cover raptors (if not all other birds)	

Many thanks for your kind attention.

If you have any further information, references or other comments please send them to us as well.

Disclaimer

The information provided in this response form is to be used solely for the purposes of the consultation exercise. The responses will not be construed as representing the official views of the organisation concerned nor any commitment on their part concerning any conclusions that may be made.

ATTACHMENT

DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY RAPTORS IN AFRICA AND EURASIA

[MemCRAE]

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-binding administrative agreements such as this one - in respect of any populations of migratory species;

NOTING that several species of Falconiformes are listed in Appendix I and all the rest of the Falconiformes in Appendix II of that Convention;

CONSIDERING that as predators, raptors serve as high-level indicators of ecosystem health across their range;

RECOGNIZING that many populations of raptors migrate between and within the African and Eurasian regions, crossing the territory of different countries;

CONCERNED by the considerable number of African-Eurasian migratory species of raptors that presently have an unfavourable conservation status at a regional and/or global level and the lack of knowledge of the status of migratory raptors in Africa, Asia and the Middle East;

AWARE that among the factors which contribute to the continuous decline of African-Eurasian raptors are the loss, degradation or fragmentation of suitable habitats, direct human persecution by shooting and taking for falconry, collateral mortality or reduced breeding success caused by human economic activities (including pollution, collisions with powerlines and wind turbines, and disturbance), and that climate change will very likely add further stress on raptor populations;

MINDFUL that a range of existing multi-lateral environmental agreements can or do contribute to the conservation of migratory raptors 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 raptors and restore them in general to favourable conservation status;

DESIROUS to implement Resolution No. 3 adopted by the VI World Conference on Birds of Prey and Owls held in Budapest, Hungary, 18-23 May 2003;

REALISING the importance of involving all range states in the region as well as relevant inter-governmental, non-governmental and private sector organisations in cooperative conservation for migratory raptors and their habitats;

ACKNOWLEDGING that effective implementation and enforcement of such actions will require assistance to be provided, in a spirit of solidarity, to some Range States for research

and training, to monitor migratory raptors and their habitats, to manage them and their habitats and to establish or improve scientific and administrative institutions;

HAVE AGREED as follows:

Scope and Definitions

1. For the purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding
 - a) “Raptor” means migratory populations of Accipitriformes, Falconiformes and Strigiformes occurring in Africa and Eurasia, listed in Appendix 1;
 - b) “Africa and Eurasia” means the whole or parts of the territories of the range states contained within the boundary marked on the map provided in Appendix 2;
 - c) “Conservation” means the protection and management, including sustainable utilisation, of raptors 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;
 - f) “Secretariat” means the Secretariat of the Convention.
 - g) “Action Plan” means the Action Plan for the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Raptors.

In addition, the terms defined in Article I, subparagraphs 1 (a) to (i), of the Convention shall have the same meaning, *mutatis mutandis*, in this Agreement.

2. This Memorandum of Understanding is an agreement under Article IV, paragraph 4, as defined by Resolution 2.6 adopted at the Second Conference of the Signatories (Geneva, 11-14 October 1988).
3. The interpretation of any term or provision of this Memorandum of Understanding shall be made in accordance with the Convention and/or relevant Resolutions adopted by its Conference of the Signatories, unless such a term or provision is defined or interpreted differently in this Memorandum of Understanding.
4. The Action Plan (Appendix 3) annexed to this Memorandum of Understanding is an integral part thereof.

Fundamental Principles

5. Signatories aim to take co-ordinated measures to prevent the extinction of raptors and to achieve and maintain their favourable conservation status throughout their range. To this end, they will pursue, within the limits of their jurisdiction and in accordance with their international obligations, the measures prescribed in Paragraphs 7 and 8, together with the specific actions laid down in the Action Plan.
6. In implementing the measures prescribed in Paragraph 5 above, Signatories will seek to apply the precautionary principle.

General Conservation Measures

7. Signatories strive to adopt, implement and enforce such legal, regulatory and administrative measures as may be necessary to conserve raptors and their habitat.
8. To this end, Signatories endeavour to:
 - a) identify important habitats for raptors occurring within their territory and encourage their protection, conservation, rehabilitation and restoration;
 - b) coordinate their efforts to ensure that a network of suitable habitats is maintained or, where appropriate, established throughout the African-Eurasian region, in particular where such habitats extend over the territory of more than one Signatory to this Memorandum of Understanding;
 - c) investigate problems that are posed or are likely to be posed by human activities and endeavour to implement remedial measures, including habitat rehabilitation and restoration, and compensatory measures for loss of habitat;
 - d) cooperate in emergency situations requiring concerted international action, in developing appropriate emergency procedures to provide increased protection to vulnerable raptor populations and in preparing guidelines to assist individual Signatories in addressing such situations;
 - e) ensure that any utilisation of raptors (in particular taking for falconry and post-hunting release) is based on an assessment of the best available knowledge of their ecology and is sustainable for the species as well as for the ecological systems that support them;
 - f) prohibit the deliberate introduction of non-native species into the African-Eurasian region and take all appropriate measures to prevent the unintentional release of such species if this introduction or release would prejudice the conservation status of raptors. When non-native species have already been introduced, the Signatories will take all appropriate measures to prevent these species from becoming a potential threat to raptors;
 - g) initiate or support research into the biology and ecology of raptors, including the harmonization of research and monitoring methods and, where appropriate, the establishment of joint or cooperative research and monitoring programmes;
 - h) analyse their training requirements for, *inter alia*, surveys, monitoring, marking and habitat management to identify priority topics and areas for training and to cooperate in the development and provision of appropriate training programmes;
 - i) develop and maintain programmes to raise awareness and understanding of conservation issues relating to raptors and their habitat as well as the objectives and provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding;
 - j) exchange information and the results from research, monitoring, conservation and education programmes; and
 - k) 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 raptors, Signatories may encourage other Range States to sign this Memorandum of Understanding.

Implementation and Reporting

10. Each Signatory will:
 - a) designate an authority or an authorized scientist as a national contact point for all matters relating to the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding; and
 - b) communicate the name and address of that authority or scientist to the Secretariat.

11. Within two years of this Memorandum of Understanding coming in to force, Signatories will prepare and submit to the Secretariat a national plan of action for conservation of raptors aimed at implementing this Memorandum of Understanding and accompanying Action Plan. The format, contents and period of the national plan of action will be developed by the Secretariat taking account of the Action Plan and the CMS Strategic Plan. The Secretariat will communicate to all Signatories and all other Range States all national plans of action received from the Signatories.
12. The Meeting of the Signatories is the decision-making body of this Memorandum of Understanding. The Secretariat will convene a meeting of the Signatories upon request of at least half of the States which are Signatories to this Memorandum of Understanding, subject to the availability of funds. The meeting will elect a Chairman and consider for adoption the rules of procedure recommended by the Secretariat. Meetings will be arranged wherever possible to coincide with other appropriate gatherings where the relevant experts 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.
13. The first Meeting of Signatories will be convened as soon as possible after at least three quarters of the Signatories have submitted their national plans of action. At the first meeting, the Secretariat will present an overview report compiled on the basis of all information at its disposal pertaining to raptors, and present proposals for an international plan of action (aiming to complement and reinforce the national plans of action) that can be considered for adoption by the Signatories. The first meeting will also adopt a format for and schedule of regular progress reports on implementing the national and international plans of action, a procedure for amending Table 1 of the Action Plan, and make such arrangements as may be necessary for convening subsequent meetings of Signatories.
14. The Secretariat will compile the regular national and international progress reports and circulate them to all Signatories and Range States.
15. Signatories to this Memorandum of Understanding which are also Signatories to the Convention will in their national report to the Conference of the Parties make specific reference to activities undertaken in relation to this Memorandum of Understanding.
16. The Signatories endeavour to exchange expeditiously the scientific, technical and legal information needed to co-ordinate conservation measures and cooperate with other Range States, appropriate international organizations and recognized scientists with a view to developing co-operative research and facilitating the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding and its Action Plan.
17. Signatories endeavour to finance from national sources the implementation on their territory of the measures necessary for the conservation of raptors. In addition, they 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 national work programmes.

Final Provisions

18. This Memorandum of Understanding is concluded for an indefinite period.
19. This Memorandum of Understanding, including the Action Plan which is appended to it, may be amended at any meeting of the Signatories. Any amendment will be adopted by consensus at a meeting of the Signatories and will become effective on the date of its

adoption by the meeting. The Secretariat will communicate the text of any amendment so adopted to all Signatories and to all other Range States.

20. Nothing in this Memorandum of Understanding shall prevent any of the Signatories adopting stricter measures for the conservation of raptors on its territory.
21. Nothing in this Memorandum of Understanding shall bind any of the Signatories either jointly or severally.
22. This Memorandum of Understanding shall be open for signature indefinitely, at the seat of the Secretariat, for all Range States of African-Eurasian raptors and for the United Nations, its Specialized Agencies, any regional economic integration organization, any secretariat of relevant international agreements, and any competent international organizations which are especially involved in the conservation and management of raptors.
23. This Memorandum of Understanding shall become effective on the first day of the month following the date of signature of the eighth Range State, provided that at least one of the signatories is a member of the European Union, at least one signatory is a non-EU member situated in Eurasia, at least one signatory is situated in the Middle East and at least one signatory is a member of the African Union. Thereafter, it will become effective for any other signatory on the first day of the month following the date of signature by that signatory.
24. 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.
25. The Secretariat will be the Depositary of this Memorandum of Understanding.
26. The working language for all matters relating to this Memorandum of Understanding, including meetings, documents and correspondence, is English.

Done at xxxxxxxx, on xxxxxxxx:

Signatory and Authority Represented:

Appendix 1

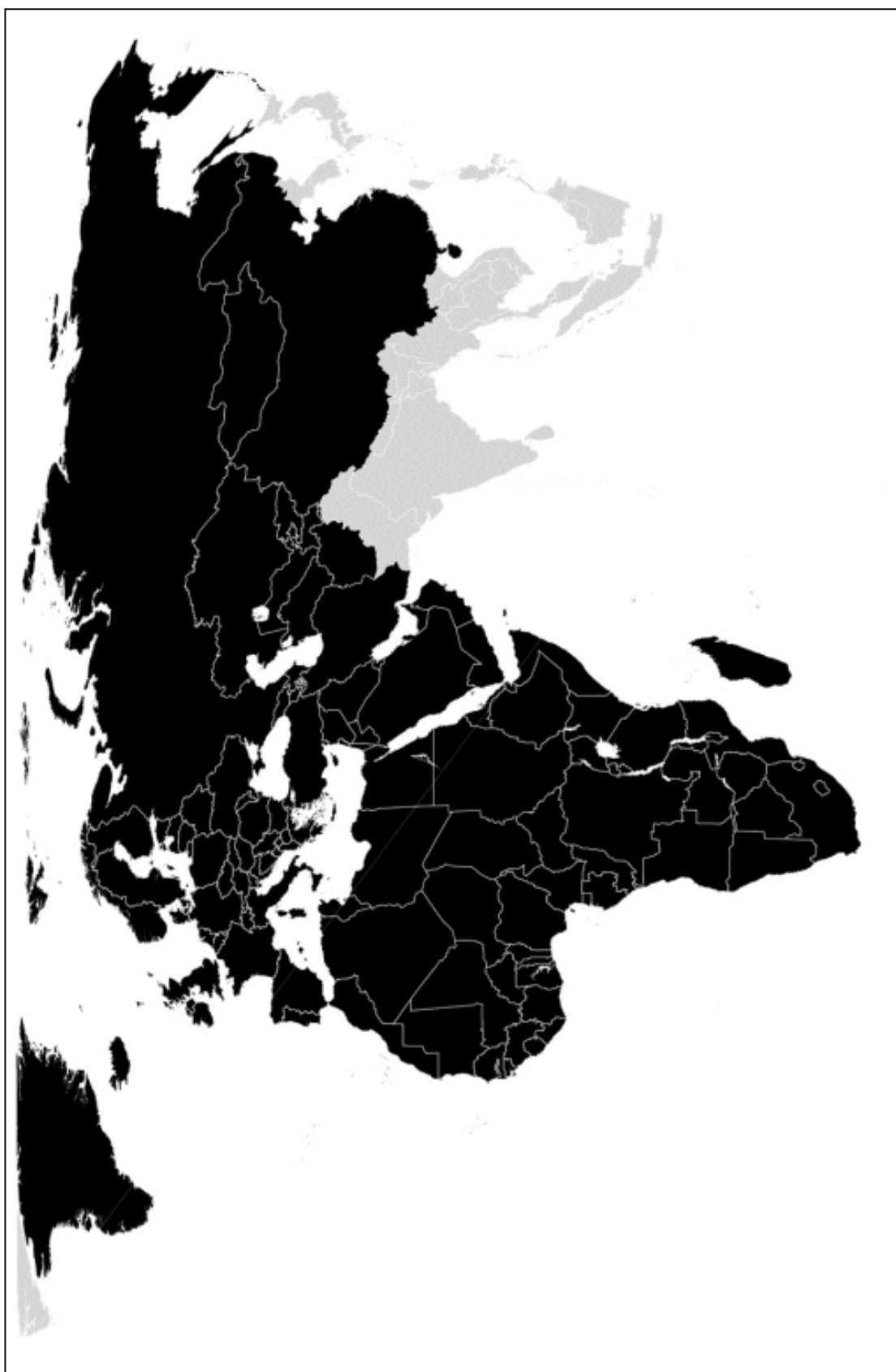
List of African-Eurasian Migratory Raptors

Scientific name	English name
<i>Aviceda cuculoides</i>	African Baza
<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	European Honey-buzzard
<i>Pernis ptilorhyncus</i>	Oriental Honey-buzzard
<i>Chelictinia riocourii</i>	African Swallow-tailed Kite
<i>Milvus milvus</i>	Red Kite
<i>Milvus migrans</i>	Black Kite
<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	White-tailed Eagle
<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	Egyptian Vulture
<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	Eurasian Griffon
<i>Aegypius monachus</i>	Cinereous Vulture
<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	Short-toed Snake-eagle
<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Western Marsh-harrier
<i>Circus maurus</i>	Black Harrier
<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Northern Harrier
<i>Circus macrourus</i>	Pallid Harrier
<i>Circus pygargus</i>	Montagu's Harrier
<i>Accipiter badius</i>	Shikra
<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>	Levant Sparrowhawk
<i>Accipiter ovampensis</i>	Ovampo Sparrowhawk
<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Eurasian Sparrowhawk
<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	Northern Goshawk
<i>Butastur rufipennis</i>	Grasshopper Buzzard
<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Common Buzzard
<i>Buteo oreophilus</i>	Mountain Buzzard
<i>Buteo rufinus</i>	Long-legged Buzzard
<i>Buteo lagopus</i>	Rough-legged Hawk
<i>Buteo auguralis</i>	Red-necked Buzzard
<i>Aquila pomarina</i>	Lesser Spotted Eagle
<i>Aquila clanga</i>	Greater Spotted Eagle
<i>Aquila rapax</i>	Tawny Eagle
<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>	Steppe Eagle
<i>Aquila adalberti</i>	Spanish Imperial Eagle
<i>Aquila heliaca</i>	Imperial Eagle
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Golden Eagle
<i>Aquila wahlbergi</i>	Wahlberg's Eagle
<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>	Booted Eagle
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Osprey
<i>Falco naumanni</i>	Lesser Kestrel
<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Common Kestrel
<i>Falco alopex</i>	Fox Kestrel
<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	Red-footed Falcon
<i>Falco amurensis</i>	Amur Falcon
<i>Falco eleonora</i>	Eleonora's Falcon
<i>Falco concolor</i>	Sooty Falcon

<i>Falco columbarius</i>	Merlin
<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	Eurasian Hobby
<i>Falco biarmicus</i>	Lanner Falcon
<i>Falco cherrug</i>	Saker Falcon
<i>Falco rusticolus</i>	Gyr Falcon
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Peregrine Falcon
<i>Falco pelegrinoides</i>	Barbary Falcon
<i>Otus brucei</i>	Pallid Scops-owl
<i>Otus scops</i>	Common Scops-owl
<i>Nyctea scandiaca</i>	Snowy Owl
<i>Strix uralensis</i>	Ural Owl
<i>Strix nebulosa</i>	Great Grey Owl
<i>Surnia ulula</i>	Northern Hawk Owl
<i>Aegolius funereus</i>	Boreal Owl
<i>Asio otus</i>	Long-eared Owl
<i>Asio flammeus</i>	Short-eared Owl

Appendix 2

Map and Range States of the African-Eurasian Region covered by the Memorandum of Understanding



RANGE STATES

Afrotropical realm*

Angola
Benin
Botswana
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cameroon
Central African Republic
Chad
Congo
Congo, Dem. Rep.
Côte d'Ivoire
Djibouti
Equatorial Guinea
Eritrea
Ethiopia
Gabon

Gambia
Ghana
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Kenya
Lesotho
Liberia
Madagascar
Malawi
Mali
Mozambique
Namibia
Niger
Nigeria
Rwanda
Senegal

Sierra Leone
Somalia
South Africa
Sudan
Swaziland
Tanzania
Togo
Uganda
Zambia
Zimbabwe

*Excludes Cape Verde, Comoros, Mauritius, Mayotte (to France), Réunion (to France), São Tomé e Príncipe and Seychelles

Palearctic

Afghanistan
Åland Islands (to Finland)
Albania
Algeria
Andorra
Armenia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Bahrain
Belarus
Belgium
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Bulgaria
China
Croatia
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Egypt
Estonia
Faroe Islands (to Denmark)
Finland
France
Georgia
Germany
Gibraltar (to UK)
Greece
Greenland
Hungary
Iceland
Iran
Iraq
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kuwait
Kyrgyzstan
Latvia
Lebanon

Libya
Liechtenstein
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Macedonia, FYR
Malta
Mauritania
Moldova
Monaco
Mongolia
Morocco
Netherlands
Norway
Oman
Palestinian Territories
Poland
Portugal
Qatar
Romania
Russia
San Marino
Saudi Arabia
Serbia and Montenegro
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain (including the Canary Islands)
Svalbard and Jan Mayen Islands (to Norway)
Sweden
Switzerland
Syria
Tajikistan
Tunisia
Turkey
Turkmenistan
Ukraine
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom
Uzbekistan

Vatican City
Western Sahara
Yemen

Authority

Appendix 3

Draft Action Plan for the Conservation of Migratory Raptors in Africa and Eurasia

1 General Aim

- 1.1 The general aim is to ensure that all populations of raptors (including owls) listed in Appendix 1 of the Memorandum of Understanding are maintained in, or returned to, Favourable Conservation Status within the meaning of Article 1(c) of the Convention.

2 Objectives

- 2.1 For the effective period of this Action Plan, the following objectives are set:
- a) To reverse the population declines of Globally Threatened and Near Threatened migratory raptors and alleviate threats to them such that they are no longer Globally Threatened;
 - b) To halt the population declines of other migratory raptors with an Unfavourable Conservation Status within the African-Eurasian region and alleviate threats to them in order to return their populations to Favourable Conservation Status.
 - c) To anticipate, reduce and avoid new threats to all migratory raptors species, especially to prevent any species with a Favourable Conservation Status from declining.

3 Species Categories

- 3.1 The raptor species included in Appendix 1 (and any subsequent amendments of it) are assigned within the following categories:
- Category 1: Globally Threatened and Near Threatened species as defined according to IUCN criteria 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 area of the Memorandum of Understanding (defined in Appendix 2);
- Category 3: all other species.
- 3.2 The species in Appendix 1 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 amended in accordance with a procedure to be agreed by the Signatories at the First Meeting of Signatories.

4 Priority Actions

- 4.1 Taking into account the predicted impacts of threats and opportunities for reducing them, the priority actions for achieving the objectives given in paragraph 2 are considered to be (in order of importance):
- Protecting all species from shooting, persecution and unsustainable exploitation.
 - Protecting and appropriately managing important sites: especially where Category 1 species breed, and all migration bottlenecks (known important congregatory sites are listed in Table 3).
 - Alleviating habitat degradation through the development and promotion of sustainable land management policies and practices.

- Raising awareness about migratory raptors, their current plight and the threats that they face, and the measures that need to be taken to conserve them.
- Monitoring populations throughout the region to establish reliable population trends; carry out 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.

5 Implementation Framework

5.1 Activities The principal activities signatories ought to undertake in order to implement the general provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding and the specific issues addressed in this Action Plan are set out in Table 2. These activities will be addressed by the national plans of action, and international plan of action for transboundary activities, as required by paragraph 11 of the Memorandum of Understanding.

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 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 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 declines in any species with a Favourable Conservation Status.

These priorities ought to be taken into account in the preparation of national plans of action for raptors as required under paragraph 11 of the Memorandum of Understanding.

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

Immediate: an activity to be completed within two years from the date of effectiveness;

Short term: an activity to be completed within three years from the date of effectiveness;

Medium: an activity to be completed within five years from the date of effectiveness;

Long term: an activity to be completed within seven years from the date of effectiveness;

Ongoing: an activity to be undertaken throughout the period of effectiveness;

5.4 Responsibilities The organisation types expected to lead on the various activities are indicated in Table 2. Existing 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 Memorandum of Understanding.

5.5 Targets The Secretariat 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 other MEAs

6.1 Insofar as a range state is represented as a Signatory to this Memorandum of Understanding is also Contracting Party to one or more Multilateral Environmental Agreements that has or have provisions that achieve or otherwise assist the aims, objectives and activities of this Action Plan, and having legal authority or precedence over the Memorandum of Understanding, such MEAs will be applied as appropriate and to their full extent in the first instance.

- 6.2 In pursuit of paragraph 6.1, signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding will undertake an audit of the relevant MEAs and their potential application for the implementation of this Action Plan and include the results in their national plans of action under paragraph 11 of the Memorandum of Understanding.

7 Progress Reports

- 7.1 Signatories and the Secretariat will report on progress with implementing the Action Plan in accordance with paragraphs 13 and 14 of the Memorandum of Understanding.

8 Period of Effectiveness

- 8.1 This Action Plan comes into effect on the same date as the entry in to force of the Memorandum of Understanding and shall have 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 raptors covered by the Action Plan⁽¹⁾

Category 1 ⁽²⁾			Category 2 ⁽³⁾		Category 3 ⁽⁴⁾	
Red Kite	<i>Milvus</i>	<i>milvus</i> (NT)	African Swallow-tailed Kite	<i>Chelictinia riocourii</i> (d)	African Baza	<i>Aviceda cuculoides</i>
Spanish Imperial Eagle	<i>Aquila</i>	<i>adalberti</i> (VU)	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i> (vu)	European Honey-buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>
Cinereous Vulture	<i>Aegypius</i>	<i>monachus</i> (NT)	Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i> (en)	Oriental Honey-buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>
Pallid Harrier	<i>Circus</i>	<i>macrourus</i> (NT)	Short-toed Snake-eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i> (r)	Eurasian Griffon	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>
Black Harrier	<i>Circus</i>	<i>maurus</i> (VU)	Northern Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i> (h)	Western Marsh-harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>
Greater Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila</i>	<i>clanga</i> (VU)	Levant Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter brevipes</i> (vu)	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>
Imperial Eagle	<i>Aquila</i>	<i>heliaca</i> (VU)	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i> (vu)	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>
Saker Falcon	<i>Falco</i>	<i>cherrug</i> (EN)	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i> (r)	Ovampo Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter ovampensis</i>
Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco</i>	<i>naumanni</i> (VU)	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila pomarina</i> (pomarina) (d)	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>
Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco</i>	<i>vespertinus</i> (NT)	Tawny Eagle	<i>Aquila rapax</i> (d)	Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>
			Steppe Eagle	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i> (en)	Grasshopper Buzzard	<i>Butastur rufipennis</i>
			Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> (r)	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>
			Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i> (r)	Mountain Buzzard	<i>Buteo oreophilus</i>
			Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i> (r)	Rough-legged Hawk	<i>Buteo lagopus</i>
			Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i> (vu)	Red-necked Buzzard	<i>Buteo auguralis</i>
			Eleonora's Falcon	<i>Falco eleonora</i> (d)	Wahlberg's Eagle	<i>Aquila wahlbergi</i>
			Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i> (vu)	Fox Kestrel	<i>Falco alopex</i>
			Gyr Falcon	<i>Falco rusticolus</i> (r)	Amur Falcon	<i>Falco amurensis</i>
			Pallid Scops-owl	<i>Otus brucei</i> (cr)	Sooty Falcon	<i>Falco concolor</i>
			Common Scops-owl	<i>Otus scops</i> (h)	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>
			Snowy Owl	<i>Nyctea scandiaca</i> (r)	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>
			Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i> (h)	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
					Barbary Falcon	<i>Falco pelegrinoides</i>
					Ural Owl	<i>Strix uralensis</i>
					Great Grey Owl	<i>Strix nebulosa</i>
					Northern Hawk Owl	<i>Surnia ulula</i>
					Boreal Owl	<i>Aegolius funereus</i>
					Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>

Notes

- 1: Listed in Appendix 1
- 2: Globally Threatened and Near Threatened species as defined by IUCN and listed on BirdLife International's World Bird Database (EN = Endangered; VU = Vulnerable; NT = Near threatened)
- 3: Species that are considered to have Unfavourable Conservation Status at a regional level within the area (defined in Appendix 2) of the Memorandum of Understanding (cr = critical; en = endangered; vu = vulnerable; d = declining in numbers or range; r = rare or depleted population; h = depleted or threatened by habitat loss)
- 4: All other species.

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

Activities	Species	Countries	Priority Level	Time-scale	Organisations	Target
Activity 1: Improvement of legal protection						
1.1. Update CMS appendices to include all Category 1 species on Annex I	Cat. 1	–	Second	Short	CMS Secretariat / CoP	CMS appendices amended
1.2. Ensure national legislation protects all raptors from all forms of killing, disturbance at nest sites, egg-collection and taking from the wild unless this can be shown to be sustainable and forms part of an International Management Plan agreed by parties to this MoU	All	All	First	Immediate	Governments	All raptors given full protection in the national legislation of all Signatories and unsustainable taking of birds is prohibited
1.3 Ensure that national legislation bans the use of exposed poison baits for predator control	All	All	First	Immediate	Governments	The national legislation of all Signatories bans use of exposed poison baits
1.4 Ensure that national legislation requires all new power lines to be designed to avoid raptor electrocution	All	All	Second	Short	Governments	The national legislation of all Signatories requires power line design to avoid electrocution
1.5 Strengthen the application of legal protection for raptors by ensuring appropriate penalties, training law enforcement authorities, and raising public awareness to boost surveillance and reporting of illegal activities, particularly at bottleneck sites	All	All	Second	Ongoing	Governments, law enforcement agencies and NGOs	Individuals breaking protection laws are prosecuted; results of prosecutions relayed to Secretariat and included in national reports
1.6 Identify gaps in existing MEAs where raptor protection and conservation can be improved and draw these to the attention of the relevant Secretariat and other Parties	All	All	Third	Intermediate	CMS Secretariat / Governments / NGOs	Provisions of existing MEAs strengthened with respect to raptor protection and conservation
Activity 2: Protect and 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 that are agreed with key stakeholders and take raptor conservation requirements into account	All	All countries listed in Table 3	Second	Medium	Governments, BirdLife International and site stakeholders	All important sites have conservation measures in place
2.2 Include important national and international sites (including those listed in Table 3) in the EU within the Natura 2000 network	All	EU member states	Second	Short	Governments and European Commission	All important sites designated as SPAs under the EU Wild Birds Directive
2.3 Require 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 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 raptor sites; results of EIAs relayed to the Secretariat and included in national reports

Activities	Species	Countries	Priority Level	Time-scale	Organisations	Target
2.4 Conduct risk assessments at important sites (including those listed in Table 3) to identify and address actual or potential causes of incidental mortality from human causes (including fire, laying poisons, pest spraying, power lines, wind turbines)	Cat. 1 and 2	All	Third	Ongoing	Governments and land managers	Incidental mortality of raptors reduced to insignificant levels
2.5 Conduct Strategic Environmental Assessments of planned 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 Develop schemes under the EU EAFRD / Rural Development Regulation that are targeted towards maintaining or restoring habitats for raptors	Cat. 1 and 2	EU Member States	Second	Ongoing	Governments, forest authorities, private land managers	Agri-environment schemes that benefit raptors are available for land managers
3.2 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
Activity 4: Raise awareness of problems faced by migratory raptors and measures needed to conserve them						
4.1 Develop a programme of public awareness, using TV, radio, newspapers and the internet to publicise the migrations undertaken by raptors, their current status, the threats to them and actions that can be taken to conserve them.	All species	All countries with bottleneck sites	Second	Short	Governments in collaboration with NGOs	Programme implemented, and conservation needs of raptors widely understood amongst public
4.2 Develop an awareness programme within forestry, agriculture, fisheries, energy, industry and transport etc to inform decision makers of the current status of raptors, the threats to them and the sectoral actions that can be taken to conserve them.	All species	All	Second	Medium	Governments in collaboration with NGOs	Programme implemented, and conservation needs of raptors widely understood amongst government departments
4.3 Develop a school educational programme and teaching resources to inform school children of the migrations undertaken by raptors, their current status, the threats to them and actions that can be taken to conserve them.	All species	All countries with bottleneck sites	Third	Medium	Governments in collaboration with NGOs	Programme implemented, and conservation needs of raptors widely understood by teachers and taught in schools
4.4 Establish information notices and provide leaflets at bottleneck sites informing people of their importance for migrating raptors 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 raptors known within bottleneck sites
Activity 5: Monitor bird of prey populations and carry out conservation research						

Activities	Species	Countries	Priority Level	Time-scale	Organisations	Target
5.1 Establish a monitoring network comprising a representative range of sites where systematic and coordinated monitoring of breeding populations and migration numbers (spring and autumn) can be undertaken	All	To be defined	Third	Immediate	Governments, Birdlife International, national ornithological organisations	Monitoring network established and adopted by Signatories
5.2 Design and undertake a coordinated monitoring programme based on the monitoring network established under 5.1	All	To be defined	Third	Ongoing	Governments, Birdlife International, national ornithological 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 the impacts of habitat change on breeding, passage and wintering populations of raptors, and identify required measures to maintain Favourable Conservation Status	Cat. 1 and 2 species	Middle East and Africa	Second	Medium	NGOs and research organisations	Habitat problems and required mitigation measures identified
5.4 Assess the impacts of the use of toxic agrochemicals on breeding, passage and wintering populations of raptors, and identify required measures to achieve and maintain Favourable Conservation Status	Cat. 1 and 2 species	Middle East and Africa	Second	Medium	NGOs and research organisations	Toxic chemical problems assessed and mitigation measures identified if required
Activity 6: Supporting measures						
6.1 National Plans of Action for migratory raptors	Cat. 1 and 2 species	All	Second	Immediate	Governments, national ornithological organisations	National Plans of Action describing how this Action Plan will be implemented with particular regard for Cat. 1 and Cat. 2 species submitted to the Secretariat before the first meeting of Signatories
6.2 International Plan of Action for migratory raptors	Cat. 1 and 2 species	All	Second	Short	Governments, Birdlife International, national ornithological organisations	International Plan of Action prepared by the Secretariat to address transboundary aspects of implementing this Action Plan, with particular regard for Cat. 1 and Cat. 2 species, submitted to the first meeting of Signatories for approval
6.3 Prepare single species 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 organisations	International conservation plans developed, approved and being implemented for all globally threatened species
6.4 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

Table 3: Important Bird Areas identified by Birdlife International that are known to be important congregatory raptor sites

Bulgaria

Atanasovo lake
Mandra-Poda complex

Denmark

Gilleleje area
Hellebæk
Korshage, Hundested and surrounding sea area
Marstal Bugt and the coast of south-west Langeland
Skagen
Stevns

Djibouti

Kadda Guéini - Doumêra

Egypt

Ain Sukhna
El Qa plain
Gebel El Zeit
Ras Mohammed National Park
Suez

Finland

Merenkurkku archipelago

France

Basses Corbières
Col de l'Escrinet
Col de Lizarrieta
Etangs de Leucate et Lapalme
Etangs Narbonnais
Gorges de la Dordogne
Haute chaîne du Jura: défilé de l'écluse, Etournel et Mont Vuache
Haute Soule : Forêt d'Irraty, Organbidexka et Pic des Escaliers
Hautes Corbières
Hautes garrigues du Montpelierais
Massif du Canigou-Carança
Montagne de la Clape
Montagne de la Serre
Mons et Plomb du Cantal
Pointe de Grave
Val d'Allier : Saint-Yorre-Joze
Val de Drôme: Les Ramières-printegarde
Vallée de la Nive des Aldudes-Col de Lindux

Georgia

Kolkheti
Meskheti

Gibraltar (to UK)

Rock of Gibraltar

Greece

North, east and south Kithira island

Iraq

Samara dam

Israel

Cliffs of Zin and the Negev highlands
Hula valley
Jezre'el, Harod and Bet She'an valleys
Judean desert
Judean foothills
Northern Arava valley
Northern lower Jordan valley
Southern Arava valley and Elat mountains
Western Negev

Italy

Aspromonte
Cape Otranto
Costa Viola
Maritime Alps
Mount Beigua
Mount Conero
Mount Grappa
Peloritani mountains
Piave river

Jordan

Aqaba mountains
Jordan valley
Petra area
Wadi Dana - Finan
Wadi Mujib

Kuwait

Al-Jahra Pool Nature Reserve

Latvia

Slitere Nature Reserve

Lebanon

Ammiq swamp

Lithuania

Kuronian spit

Malta

Buskett and Wied il-Luq

Morocco

Cap Spartel - Perdicaris
Jbel Moussa

Palestinian Authority Territories

Jericho
Northern Lower Jordan Valley

Portugal

South-west coast of Portugal

Russia (European)

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Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London SW1P 3JR
www.defra.gov.uk

