



# Sooty Falcon ISSAP Workshop

5 February 2026



# Sooty Falcon ISSAP Workshop



Time	Session
12:00 – 12:10	Welcome and Introduction
12:10 – 12:30	The International Sooty Falcon Action Plan
12:30 – 12:35	Resources available
12:35 – 13:15	Technical Presentations
	On going activities in Saudi
	On going activities in Oman
	Satellite tagging from Madagascar
13:15 – 13:45	Global monitoring priorities
	Group sessions: Identifying priority actions for breeding, wintering and funding
13:45 – 14:15	Feedback from working groups and the way forward
14:15 – 14:25	Closing of the meeting



# International Single Species Action Plan for the Sooty Falcon

**Umberto Gallo-Orsi & Alexandra Caron-Strehlow**

Raptors MOU

CMS Office – Abu Dhabi

5 February 2026

# Listing under CMS

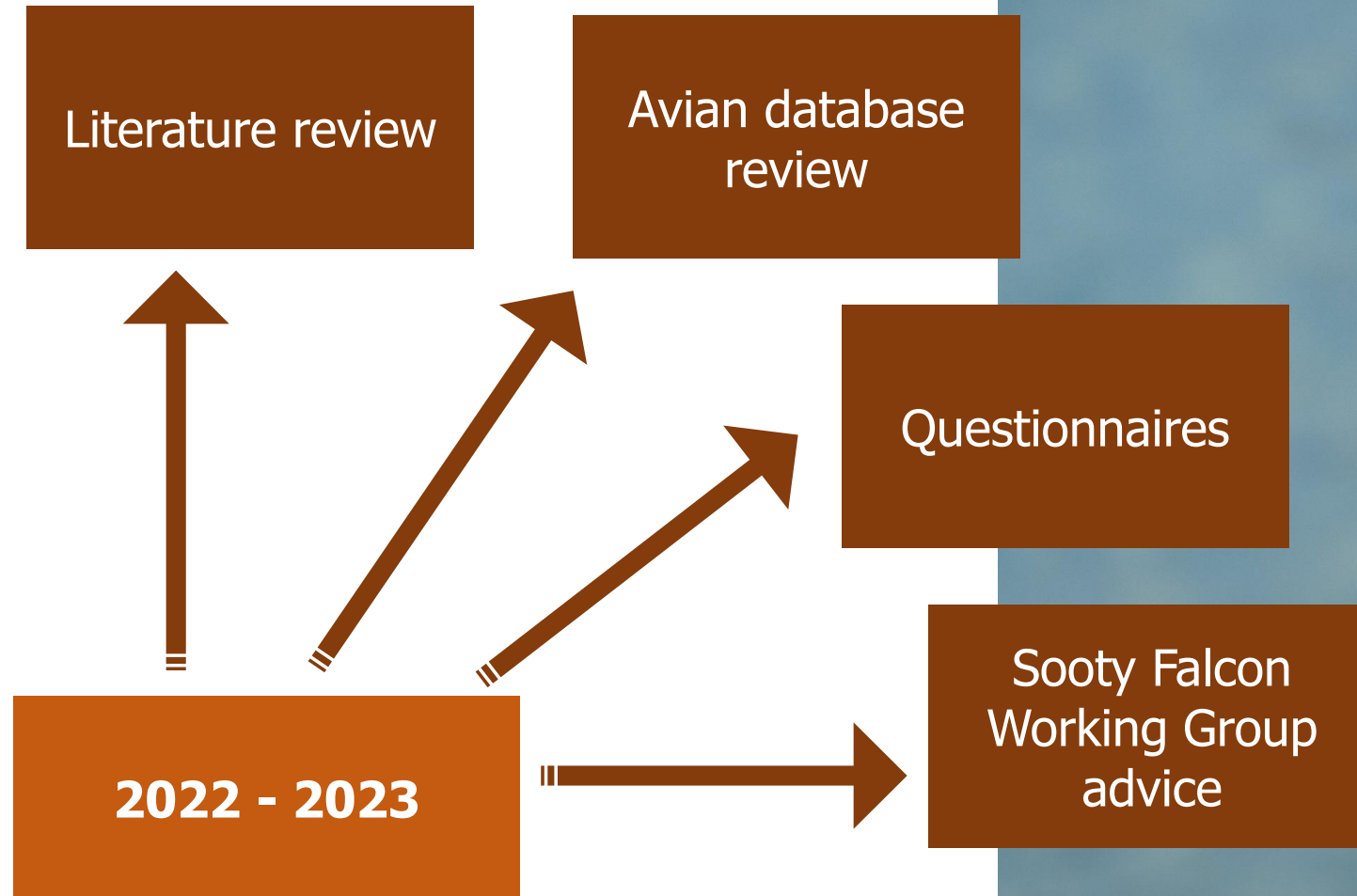
**CMS:** Appendix II (1979)

**Raptors MOU:** Category 1  
(2008)

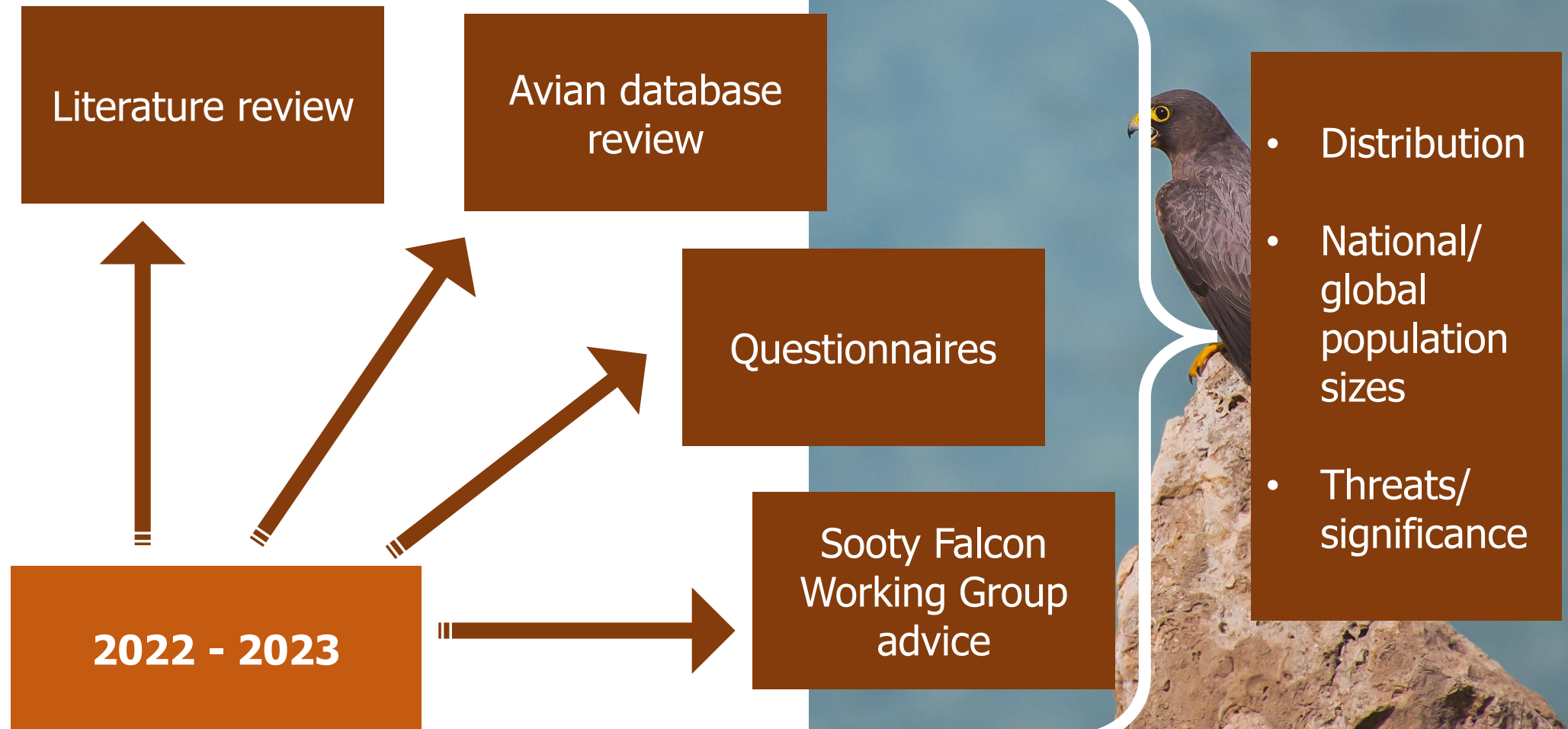
**IUCN Red List:** VU; single  
small, declining population



# ISSAP development



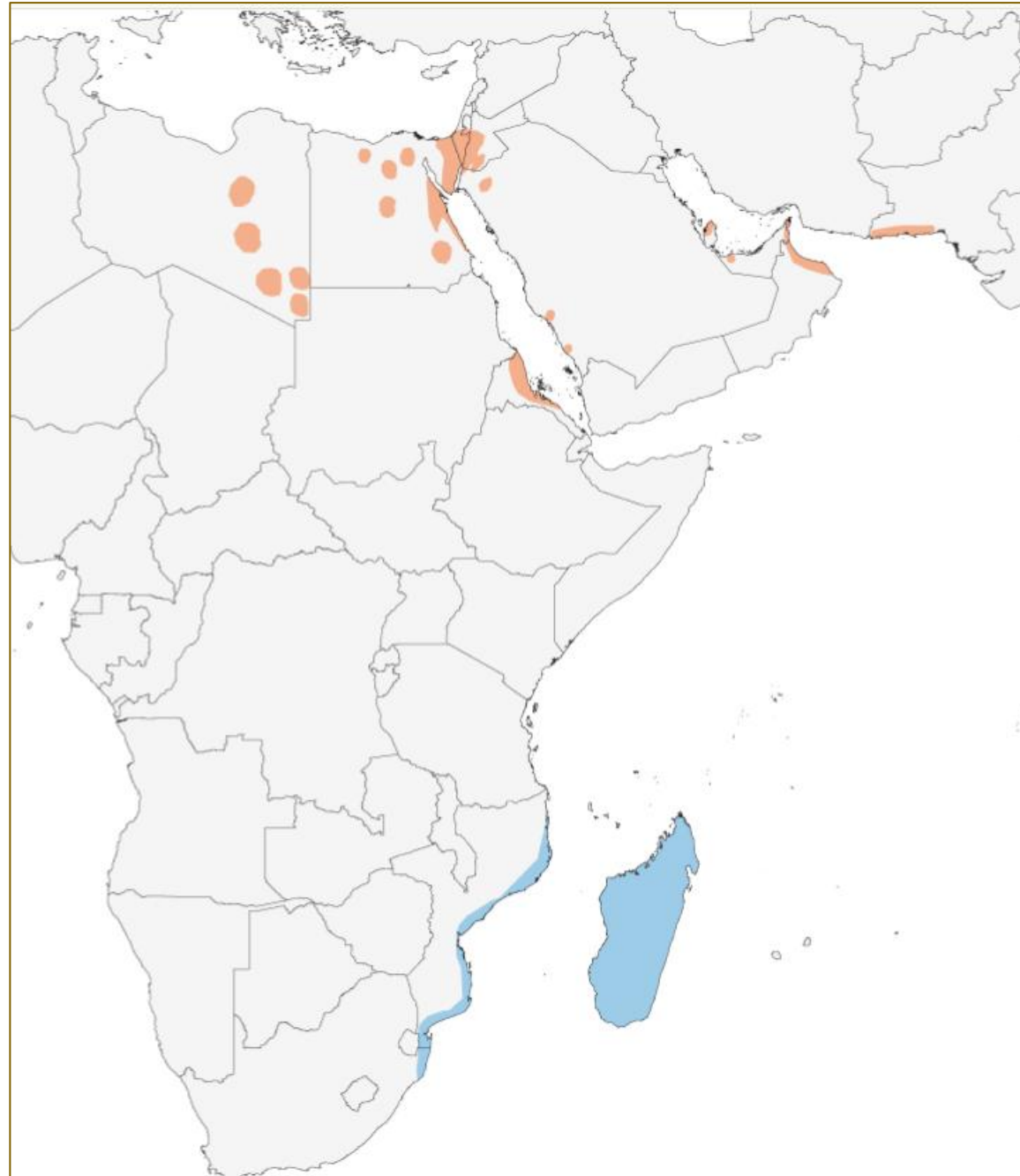
# ISSAP development



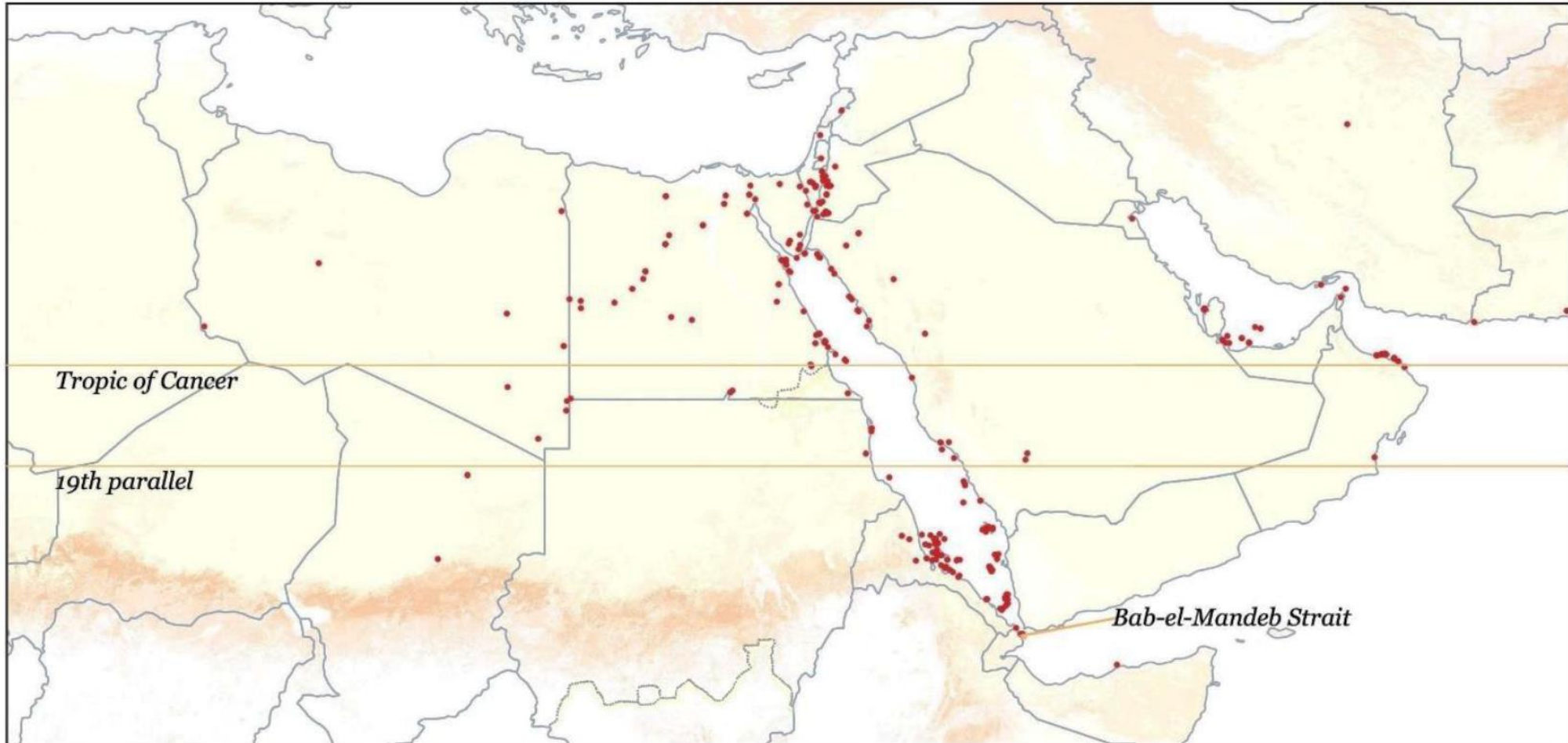
# Global distribution



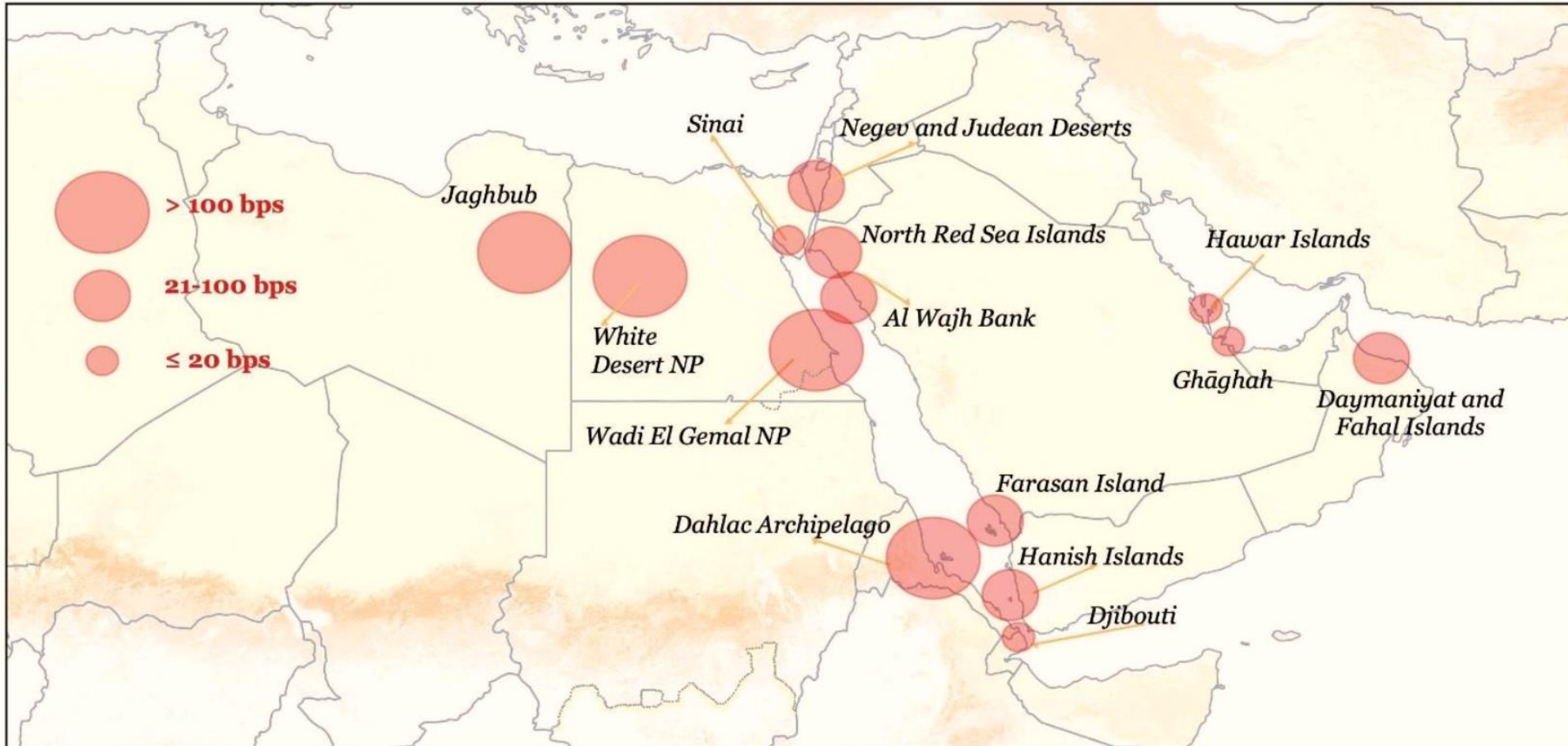
@ Hilary Burn



# Breeding distribution



# Breeding population



# Threats

Threat	Importance (IUCN SSC criteria)	Mainly affecting
Urban, industrial and energy development	Very high	Breeding areas
Disturbance by tourists and fishers	High	Breeding areas
Lack of knowledge on the species	High	Breeding and non-breeding areas
Introduced terrestrial predators	Potentially High	Breeding areas
Locust and Quelea control operations	Potentially High	Non-breeding areas
Hunting and taking	Medium	Breeding and non-breeding areas
Lack of knowledge on the impacts of climate change	Medium	Breeding and non-breeding areas
Poisoning and habitat degradation from agricultural intensification	Unknown, possibly Medium	Breeding and non-breeding areas

# Population size estimates

Country	Breeding population (breeding pairs)	Breeding population trend (last 12 y)	Quality <sup>¥</sup> (BLI criteria)	Source (literature & questionnaires)
<b>Bahrain</b>	6-10	Declining	Good	H. King (2022)
<b>Chad</b>	2-5	Unknown	-	Booth 1961
<b>Djibouti</b>	18	Unknown	Poor	H. Rayaleh (2022)
<b>Egypt</b>	285-295	Declining	Medium	M.I. Habib (2022), A. Salama (2022)
<b>Eritrea</b>	230	Unknown	Poor	Semere et al. 2008, G. Chiozzi (2013)
<b>Iran</b>	3	Unknown	Poor	S. Zadeghan (2022), A. Hashemi (2022), Z.E. Rad (2022)
<b>Israel</b>	70-90	Slight decrease	Good	Goren et al. 2023
<b>Jordan</b>	30-90	Unknown	Poor	F. Khoury (2022), L. El Moghrabi (2022)
<b>Kuwait</b>	0-1?	Unknown	Poor	Gregory 2004
<b>Libya</b>	205-500	Unknown	Poor	Riad et al. 2021, S. Buirzayqah (2022)
<b>Oman</b>	84	Declining	Good	W.A. Al Fazari (2013)
<b>Pakistan</b>	Few	Unknown	-	Khan et al. 2010, M.S.H Khan (2013)
<b>Saudi Arabia</b>	171-196	Declining	-	A. Binothman (2022), L. Calabrese (2022), M. Alghrair (2023), M. Alshaikh (2023)
<b>Sudan</b>	-	Unknown	-	Nikolaus 1987
<b>United Arab Emirates</b>	0-5	Declining	Good	S. Khan (2022)
<b>Yemen</b>	45-70	Unknown	-	O.A. Baeshen (2013)
<b>Global</b>	<b>1,149-1,597</b>	<b>Declining</b>	<b>Poor</b>	-
<b>Global mature individuals<sup>¥¥¥</sup></b>	2,298-3,194	Declining	Poor	-

# Aim

To reduce the risk of extinction of the Sooty Falcon by halting the decline of its population to a point where it qualifies for downlisting to at least Near Threatened.



# Objectives

<b>Protect</b>	Protect the species
<b>Improve</b>	Improve knowledge through monitoring and research
<b>Exchange</b>	Exchange lessons learnt and raise awareness



# Implementation timeframe, oversight & review

- **Implementation:** 2024-2036 / 3 generations (4.1 y)
- **Mid-term review:** post-6 years
- **Final review:** last year
  
- **Recommendation:** coordinating entity to overview, support and report on implementation



# Geographical scope

29 Range States called to implement  
ISSAP:

**Bahrain**, Central African Republic, **Chad\***,  
Democratic Republic of the Congo\*,  
**Djibouti\***, **Egypt\***, **Eritrea**, Ethiopia\*,  
**Iran\***, **Israel\***, **Jordan\***, Kenya\*, **Kuwait**,  
**Libya\***, Madagascar\*, Mozambique, **Oman**,  
**Pakistan\***, Rwanda, **Saudi Arabia\***,  
Somalia\*, South Africa\*, South Sudan,  
**Sudan\***, Tanzania, Uganda\*, **United Arab  
Emirates\***, **Yemen\*** and Zambia.

**Bold** = breed/has bred; \* = MOU Signatory



# International Single Species Action Plan for the Sooty Falcon

2024 - 2036

CMS Raptors MOU Technical Publication No. 10



## CMS enforcement

Feb 2024: COP14 requested ScC & StC to review and adopt the ISSAP

Sept 2024: ScC SC6 welcomed the ISSAP

March 2025: StC56 approved the ISSAP





# Progress so far

- Egypt National Action Plan
- Knowledge Exchange Workshop - 11 Nov 2025
- New nest sites/colonies discovered in KSA, Libya & Oman, Jordan
- Upcoming Monography on *Ornis Hungarica*
- More scientific articles upcoming

# Way Forward

- Must see the ISSAP as a beginning, not an end
- Next step is implementation
- To catalise implementation:

International level - need an **ISSAP Coordinator** to fundraise, oversee implementation across sp. range, liaise with the working group, organize meetings

National level – Raptors MOU's experience suggests that it may also be beneficial to have a national-level coordinator



# Thank you

**Umberto Gallo-Orsi & Alexandra Caron-Strehlow**

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