



# National Report Form for the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors MOU).

Fields marked with \* are mandatory.

## Introduction

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### Introductory remarks

This is the National Report form for the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia ([Raptors MOU](#)).

The purpose of the National Report is to provide information on your country's implementation of the Raptors MOU including the Action Plan (Annex 3). The format provided here has been designed to generate information that can be synthesised in a comparable way for each future Meeting of Signatories, to give a meaningful picture of progress and reflect the achievements of Signatories and other stakeholders, but also to be as streamlined as possible to keep the work involved in reporting to a necessary minimum.

The format was tested ahead of the third Meeting of Signatories (MOS3) and formally was approved by MOS3 in 2023. The Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MOU will compile and analyze the National Reports and present a summary on the implementation of the Raptors MOU Action Plan to MOS4.

### Reporting period

To enable proper analysis, it is important that all respondents relate their answers (throughout this form) to the same reporting period. On this occasion we are asking you to report on the period between November 2021 and April 2026.

The previous implementation survey covered the period July 2019 - October 2021, the results of which can be found in the Synthesis of national reports submitted by [Signatories and Cooperating Partners on their implementation of the MOU](#).

## Instructions

Please answer all questions as fully and as accurately as you can. Wherever possible, please indicate the source of information used to answer the question, particularly if a published reference or report is available. For each relevant question there are icons that can be used to attach a document and/or provide a web link.

When working on the online version of the report, save your information by clicking on the “Save all” button inside each section. An auto-save feature also saves any changed responses every 30 seconds, and whenever you move between sections.

Guidance notes are provided throughout the format to assist you in answering the questions.

**Deadline for submission: 30 June 2026**

## I. ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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\* Name of Signatory State:

Hungary

\* Any territories which are excluded from the application of the MOU:

None

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### Report Compiler

\* Name and title:

Mr. András Schmidt

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### Designated Contact Point for the MOU

(if different from Report Compiler)

Name and title of designated Contact Point:

Full name of institution:

Mailing address:

Telephone:

Email:

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## II. HIGH-LEVEL SUMMARY OF KEY MESSAGES

### GUIDANCE:

*This section invites you to summarise briefly the most important positive aspects of Raptors MOU/Action Plan implementation in your country and the areas of greatest concern.*

*Your answers should be based on the information contained in the body of the report: the intention is for this section to distil the technical information in the report into some very brief and simple "high-level" messages for decision-makers and for wider audiences.*

*Although keeping it brief, please try also to be specific where you can, e.g. "New wildlife legislation enacted in 2020 doubled penalties for poisoning birds of prey" is more informative than "stronger laws"; "50% shortfall in match-funding for GEF project on vultures" is more informative than "lack of funding".*

### GUIDANCE:

*Please limit this specifically to the current reporting period only. For this present round of reporting, the period is from 1 November 2021 to the present.*

## In your country, in the reporting period, what does this report reveal about:

- \* The most successful aspects of implementation of the MOU and/or Action Plan? (List up to five items)

EU-funded projects for habitat restoration, site management and species-specific measures (for example, the PannonEagle LIFE project ended in 2023, and in 2024 the Saker Roads LIFE project began);  
Measures against bird mortality along powerlines, in collaboration with electricity distribution companies and the grid operator in Hungary;  
Regular meetings/conferences held for raptor experts;  
Regular monitoring of the most important breeding and wintering raptor populations;  
Annual publication specifically on raptor conservation, monitoring and research (Heliaca).

- \* The greatest difficulties in implementing the MOU and/or Action Plan? (List up to five items)

Climate change, causing serious droughts, leading to degradation of habitats and decline in prey populations;  
Invasive Alien Species causing habitat degradation;  
Slow progress with retrofitting dangerous sections of powerlines, despite some successes, due to the enormous "heritage" of poorly designed powerlines across the country;  
Habitat loss and degradation due to climate change and all kinds of human activities, including agriculture, forestry, water management and infrastructure development;  
Continuation (but slow decrease!) of targeted illegal poisoning (and even shooting) of raptors.

- \* The main priorities for future implementation of the MOU and/or Action Plan? (List up to five items)

Implementation of the EU Nature Restoration Regulation, aiming to take measures to achieve or maintain favourable conservation status of all species of EU community importance, including raptors and owls;  
Continuation of the fight against illegal killing of raptors;  
Nestsite protection measures, especially for forest-dwelling species;  
Continuation of retrofitting of powerlines, in the frame of the Accessible Sky scheme in collaboration with distribution companies and the transmission company

## III. RAPTOR CONSERVATION STRATEGIES AND EQUIVALENT DOCUMENTS

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### GUIDANCE:

*A central provision of the MOU (paragraph 12) is for Signatories to prepare national or regional (e.g. EU) strategies or equivalent documents (e.g. Single Species Action Plans) for category 1 and, where appropriate, category 2 species in Table 1 in the Action Plan. The Action Plan itself foresees its listed actions being addressed by these strategies / equivalent documents.*

- \* Does a national and/or regional Raptor Conservation Strategy or equivalent document exist in relation to your country?
  - Yes
  - In preparation

No

\* Please state the title and scope of the strategy or equivalent document, and summarise the current status of its implementation or preparation (as appropriate):

The EU's Strategic Approach to Raptor Conservation

Provide a copy of the document(s) concerned:

And/or provide a website link that will give access to the relevant text:

[https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1495/20221005015748mp\\_/https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action\\_plans/docs/Raptor\\_conservationreport.pdf](https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1495/20221005015748mp_/https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/docs/Raptor_conservationreport.pdf)

\* Does the strategy or equivalent document address all of the activities listed in Table 2 of the Action Plan?

- Yes  
 Partly  
 No

\* Please state the reasons why all of the Table 2 activities are not addressed:

The EU's Strategic Approach to Raptor Conservation document can address actions at EU level, but some actions can in practice only be implemented at national level.

## IV. LEGAL PROTECTION OF SPECIES AGAINST KILLING AND UNSUSTAINABLE EXPLOITATION

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\* Are all species of migratory birds of prey (present in your country) listed in Annex I of the Raptors MOU granted full legal protection from deliberate killing and taking from the wild?

### **GUIDANCE:**

Follow this [link](#) to see the species listed in Annex 1.

If you are answering "yes", please make sure that the statute(s) concerned is/are clearly identified by giving details of title, date, etc.

If you are answering "only partly", please be clear whether this is because legal protection only applies to some aspects, or because only some species are covered (please identify the species) or because only some areas are covered - (or any combination of these types of partial coverage); and give the reasons for this.

- Yes  
 Partly  
 No

Not known

\* Please indicate the statute(s) concerned and summarise the provision:

Act No. 53 of 1996 on Nature Conservation; Decree No. 13 of 2001 of the Minister of Environment on the list of protected species; Article 43 of the Act says:

(1) It shall be prohibited to disturb, harm, torture or destroy protected animal species, or to threaten the success of their breeding or any other vital functions as well as to destroy or damage their habitats, sites of occurrence, shelters, feeding, nesting, resting or roosting places.

(2) The authorisation of the nature conservation authority shall be required for

a) any population control;

b) the collection, capture, killing, possession and training of any individual;

c) the breeding in captivity of any individual;

d) the taxidermal preparation and preservation or the possession of such preparations of any individual;

e) the keeping of any individual in live animal collections;

f) the supplementing of any population with individuals from foreign populations;

g) the artificial exchange of genetic matter between populations;

h) the exchange or sale and purchase of any individual;

i) the exportation from, importation to or transportation through Hungary of any individual;

j) the reintroduction or introduction of any individual;

k) the application of alarming methods in order to prevent any damage caused by them;

l) the translocation of the nest of any individual;

m) the domestication of any individual;

The Ministerial Decree lists all species of raptor and owl that occur in Hungary as protected or strictly protected.

\* Is there legislation in place which bans the use of exposed poison baits and other toxic chemical methods of predator or pest control?

**GUIDANCE:**

The CMS [Guidelines to prevent the risk of poisoning to migratory birds](#) provide further background on legislative (and other) means of reducing harm to migratory birds (including raptors) from toxic chemicals.

Yes

No

Not known

\* Please indicate the statute(s) concerned, and summarise the provision:

Decree of the Minister of Agriculture No. 43/2010. (IV.23.) on plant protection activities provides in Article 5 that (1) pesticides may only be used in line with their licence prescriptions.

No rodenticide is licenced to be applied in an exposed situation outdoors. Hunting legislation does not allow poisoning of predators. The Criminal Code also refers to the abuse of toxic substances and sanctions it in the chapter on crimes against natural assets (in force since 2022), as well as in the chapter on animal torture (in force since 2025).

## V. SPECIES POPULATION MANAGEMENT AND RECOVERY PROGRAMMES

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Have any Single or Multi-species Action Plans been published for any species of migratory bird of prey in your country?

- Yes  
 No  
 In preparation

\* Please list the species involved and the status of each Plan:

Circaetus gallicus, Circus pygargus, Clanga pomarina, Falco cherrug, Pernis apivorus: species action plans approved in 2024. The species action plan for Falco vespertinus was updated in 2019. The species action plan for Milvus milvus is currently drafted and is planned to be approved in 2026. Additional EU action plans relevant in Hungary also exist.

Provide a copy of the document(s) concerned:

And/or provide a website link that will give access to the relevant text:

<https://termeszettvedelem.hu/fajmegorzesi-tervek-keszitesese-es-megvalositasa/>

\* Have any reintroduction or restocking projects been implemented involving migratory birds of prey in accordance with prevailing international guidelines?

### GUIDANCE:

One of the most relevant international guidelines documents for this question is the IUCN publication "[Guidelines for reintroductions and other conservation translocations](#)".

- Yes  
 No  
 Not known

\* Please state why not:

The focus of conservation actions was different (habitat conservation, provision of nesting sites, fight against poisoning, retrofitting of powerlines etc.). The need for a reintroduction or translocation project did not arise recently for any raptor species, the above measures seem more important.

\* Have any supplementary feeding initiatives been established and maintained for necrophagous birds of prey?

- Yes

- No  
 Not known

\* Please give a brief summary:

Several feeding sites are maintained, especially in the winter season, by the national park directorates in Hungary.

## VI. CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF HABITATS AND SITES

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\* Have any measures been implemented to improve or restore the habitats of species of birds of prey?

- Yes  
 No  
 Not known

\* Please give a brief summary:

### GUIDANCE:

*Please indicate what habitat type, where, and (broadly) what type of measures were involved. Comments on success (or otherwise) would also be valuable.*

In the EU budgetary period 2021-2027, Hungary implements development projects that comprise of habitat restorations and/or investments into habitat management facilities, affecting a total of 73 thousand hectares of near-natural habitat in the country. Of course, these habitats are also used by migratory birds of prey and owls. Habitat restoration measures include wetland and grassland restorations, elimination of invasive alien species etc. Habitat management measures include increasing capacity for habitat management (e.g. installation of animal husbandry facilities to improve grazing) as well as actual habitat management, such as regular removal of invasive alien species etc.

\* Which sites in your country listed in Table 3 of the Action Plan are designated as protected areas, or are otherwise appropriately managed taking into account the conservation requirements of migratory birds of prey?

Please indicate in this online file ([link](#)) for each of the relevant sites listed in Table 3 of Annex 3 of the MOU whether the site is (a) fully designated as a protected area or covered by an instrument ensuring proper management, (b) partially so designated/covered, or (c) not so designated/covered. If you experience any issues accessing the online file, please contact the Raptors MOU Coordinating Unit at [umberto.galloorsi@un.org](mailto:umberto.galloorsi@un.org) to request a copy as an email attachment.

### GUIDANCE:

*The list is extracted from the List of internationally important sites for migratory birds of prey in Africa and Eurasia (Table 3 of Annex 3 of the Raptors MOU) as approved by the Third Meeting of Signatories. Please answer this question in relation to the sites that are listed there. Please provide your answers in the online*

file by following the link above. The file will automatically save your answers.

- I have added the relevant information for my country's sites
- My country does not have sites listed

## VII. ASSESSING AND RESPONDING TO THREATS AND PRESSURES

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- \* Have any assessments been made of the nature, likelihood, severity or potential consequences of threats facing birds of prey, and measures identified to maintain their Favourable Conservation Status?

### GUIDANCE:

*"Favourable Conservation Status" should be interpreted for this question in accordance with the definition provided in Article I (1) (c) of the Convention on Migratory Species. ([Link to text here](#)).*

- Yes
- No
- Not known

- \* Please give a brief summary:

The most important, present pressures and future threats to, as well as measures for all Natura 2000 trigger bird species, including most raptor and owl species, have been listed in the national report of Hungary under Article 12 of the EU Birds Directive for the period 2019-2024, submitted to the European Commission in 2025.

- \* Based on the assessment referred to above (or if none, on your own knowledge and judgement) please identify (tick) the **three most important** categories of threat affecting birds of prey in your country:

### GUIDANCE:

*This question asks you to identify the important pressures that are reliably known to be having an actual adverse impact on migratory birds of prey at present. Please avoid including speculative information about pressures that may be of some potential concern but whose impacts have not yet been demonstrated.*

*Exactly 3 selection(s)*

- Direct killing and taking
- Collisions and electrocution
- Alien and/or invasive species
- Disturbance and disruption
- Habitat destruction/degradation
- Climate change
- Levels of knowledge, awareness, legislation, management etc.
- Other (please specify below)

\* Add comments here on any particular actions in response to these threats:

**GUIDANCE:**

You may find it helpful here to refer to actions assisted by relevant existing response tools and initiatives in the framework of mechanisms such as the CMS. Examples could include the [Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean \(MIKT\)](#), [Intergovernmental Task Force to Address Illegal Hunting, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway \(ITTEA\)](#), [South-West Asia Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force \(SWA ITB TF\)](#), the [CMS Energy Task Force](#), and the adopted [Guidelines to Prevent the Risk of Poisoning to Migratory Birds](#).

There is active collaboration with electricity distribution companies to reduce the threat of electrocution. Collision with powerlines is not typical in raptors, but collision with wind farms is a growing threat. The authorities take into account raptor conservation interests as far as feasible. The EU nature restoration regulation aims to reverse the trend of habitat degradation, and there have been restoration projects already in the reporting period. These projects also increase resilience to climate change.

\* Are requirements in place to ensure that proposals for activities that may have significant effects on birds of prey or their habitats are subject to Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) or Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA)?

**GUIDANCE:**

Helpful pointers on this subject (and reference to sources of further guidance) are given in [CMS Resolution 7.2 \(Rev.COP14\)](#) on "Impact assessment and migratory species".

Comments on the general standard and quality of EIAs/SEAs that are undertaken would be valuable.

Any use that has been made of "sensitivity mapping" techniques in this context should be mentioned here.

- Yes
- No
- Not known

\* Please give a brief summary of the requirements and their implementation, including the extent to which the results of these assessments are used to inform relevant consent decisions and associated mitigation measures:

Under EU legislation, an environmental impact assessment is obligatory for all major projects (and for plans, an SEA is compulsory). Thresholds for the size of the project are lower in nationally protected and in Natura 2000 sites, triggering EIAs for smaller projects, too. EISs not only inform authorities but their results must be taken into account when issuing a licence/permit.

## VIII. ACTION / INTEGRATION ACROSS SECTORS

\* Is the conservation of migratory birds of prey integrated within the policies of sectors such as agriculture, forestry, energy, transport, waste, tourism and others?

- Yes
- Partly
- No
- Not known

\* Please give a brief summary:

The EU Common Agricultural Policy integrates a number of "green" elements, but still contributes to habitat loss and deterioration. In the course of forest management planning, nature conservation aspects, including raptor conservation, have to be taken into account, but conflicts often remain. As for energy, transport, waste and tourism see the replies about EIAs and SEAs, the main tools for policy integration.

\* Have any programmes been implemented during the reporting period among government departments (other than the department that has lead responsibility for the Raptors MOU) to inform decision makers of the conservation needs of migratory birds of prey?

- Yes
- No
- Not knowm

\* Please state why not:

Lack of capacity.

## IX. RESEARCH, MONITORING AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

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\* Have any overall assessments been made of the status and trends of any populations of migratory birds of prey in your country, during the reporting period?

- Yes
- No
- Not known

\* Please give a brief summary, and highlight any particularly significant declines or increases that have been revealed for relevant species:

The national report of Hungary under Article 12 of the EU Birds Directive for the period 2019-2024, submitted to the European Commission in 2025, contains status and trend information for all raptor species.

Please provide a copy of any relevant documents:

And/or provide a website link that will give access to relevant material:

\* Are any systematic and coordinated monitoring programmes operated in your country in relation to breeding populations, reproductive success or migration counts of birds of prey?

- Yes  
 No  
 Not known

\* Please give a brief summary:

The national park directorates, in collaboration with BirdLife Hungary, monitor the breeding populations and reproductive success of the most important bird of prey and owl species annually. The results are published in Heliaca, also available online. BirdLife Hungary, in collaboration with the national park directorates and involving a large number of volunteers, organises a synchronised winter count for raptors annually. See some results of the January 2024 winter count published online at the link.

Please provide a copy of any relevant documents:

And/or provide a website link that will give access to relevant material:

<https://www.mme.hu/heliaca-evkonyv>; [https://mme.hu/hirek/2024/02/20/elkeszult\\_2024\\_evi\\_21\\_orzagos\\_es\\_7\\_pannonregios\\_sasleltar](https://mme.hu/hirek/2024/02/20/elkeszult_2024_evi_21_orzagos_es_7_pannonregios_sasleltar)

\* Have any guidelines or protocols been published concerning systematic or coordinated monitoring programmes for migratory birds of prey?

- Yes  
 No  
 Not known

\* Please give the source reference(s) and a brief summary:

The protocol is not public, it has been distributed to national park directorates implementing the breeding bird census as described above. The programme has been running systematically since 2015 and covers the following species under the MoU: *Pernis apivorus*, *Milvus migrans*, *Milvus milvus*, *Haliaeetus albicilla*, *Circaetus gallicus*, *Circus pygargus*, *Accipiter brevipes*, *Buteo rufinus*, *Clanga pomarina*, *Aquila heliaca*, *Aquila chrysaetos*, *Aquila pennata*, *Falco cherrug*, *Falco peregrinus*, *Falco vespertinus*, *Bubo bubo*, *Strix uralensis*, *Asio flammeus*

Please provide a copy of any relevant document(s):

And/or provide a website link that will give access to relevant material:

\* Does any process exist for establishing multi-stakeholder agreement about priorities for research on issues of relevance to the conservation of birds of prey?

- Yes
- No
- Not known

\* Please state why not:

There is no multi-stakeholder forum to discuss research priorities in a coordinated way, but raptor experts have regular meetings (twice a year), where, among others, research topics are also discussed in an informal way.

\* Are suitable platforms in place in your country to exchange knowledge, experience and information about the conservation of birds of prey?

- Yes
- No
- Not known

\* Please identify the relevant platform(s) and summarise its/their scope and function:

Two meetings/conferences annually for exchange of information, organised by BirdLife Hungary and other national conservation organisations, plus the Heliaca annual publication summarising the results of raptor research and monitoring. See link above.

## X. RAISING AWARENESS

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\* Have any public awareness programmes been implemented during the reporting period to promote the importance of birds of prey, their migrations and their conservation needs?

- Yes
- No
- Not known

\* Please give a brief summary including comments on the impact and success (or otherwise) of these programmes:

Heliaca publication (see link in earlier chapter on research). Winter raptor count involving volunteers (see link in earlier chapter on monitoring). Annual meeting/conference of raptor conservation experts.

\* Have any education programmes or teaching resources been provided during the reporting period to inform young people and students about migratory birds of prey and their conservation needs?

- Yes
- No
- Not known

\* Please give a brief summary:

MME BirdLife Hungary organises regular training to inform interested citizens about raptor conservation, covering species identification, research, habitat management issues etc.

## XI. STRENGTHENING CAPACITY

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\* Have any training or other support programmes been implemented during the reporting period to strengthen the capacity of agencies responsible for the application of relevant laws and regulations?

- Yes  
 No  
 Not known

\* Please give a brief summary:

Annual meetings are held with representatives of national parks to discuss measures against bird mortality along powerlines, and separate annual meetings where representatives of electricity distribution companies and the grid operator are present. In March 2026, a conference was organised by the ministry responsible for nature conservation on environmental crime, focusing partly on illegal killing of raptors. The conference was attended by representatives of national park directorates, county government offices (authorities), judiciary, prosecutors and police.

\* Have any training or other initiatives been implemented during the reporting period to support activities undertaken by local communities or voluntary groups in relation to birds of prey surveys, monitoring, site protection work or related outreach?

- Yes  
 No  
 Not known

\* Please give a brief summary:

MME/BirdLife Hungary occasionally organises a course on raptor conservation for volunteers, covering species identification, rescue of injured specimens, site management and monitoring issues.

\* During the reporting period, has your country *provided* any new financial or other resources for conservation activities specifically benefiting migratory birds of prey?

### **GUIDANCE:**

*“Other resources” in this context could include, for example, “in-kind” forms of support such as staff time or administrative infrastructure, loan of equipment, provision of data processing facilities or technology transfer. (Do not include training or mentoring schemes and other initiatives for capacity building however, as these are covered separately in the preceding two questions).*

- Yes

- No
- Not known

\* Please state the beneficiary/ies concerned and the activities supported:

The Hungarian government contributes to EU-funded projects with co-financing (such as in LIFE projects).

\* During the reporting period, has your country *received* any new financial or other resources for conservation activities specifically benefiting migratory birds of prey?

**GUIDANCE:**

*See guidance on interpretation of “other resources” provided in relation to the preceding question.*

- Yes
- No
- Not known

\* Please state the source(s) concerned and the activities supported:

EU funding for various projects, including the PannonEagle LIFE project, whose major focus was on raptor conservation, but also site management and habitat restoration projects

## XII. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

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\* During the reporting period, has your country participated in any international cooperation activities as provided by paragraph 8 of the MOU?

- Yes
- No
- Not known

\* Please give a brief summary:

BirdLife Hungary has launched a volunteer mission to help save the *Falco vespertinus* wintering and migrant population hotspot in Angola.

\* During the reporting period, has your country taken any steps to support or encourage any other Range State (s) to sign the Raptors MOU?

- Yes
- No
- Not known

\* Please state why not:

No capacity. Most countries Hungary is in contact with on raptor conservation are EU Members and thus signatories to the Raptors MoU

## **Contact**

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