



Cooperating Partners 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

Introductory remarks

This is the Cooperating Partner 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 Report is to provide information on your organisation'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 was formally approved by MOS3 in 2023. The Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MOU will compile and analyze the 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 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

* Name of Cooperating Partner:

IUCN SSC Vulture Specialist Group

Report Compiler

* Name and title:

Andre Botha (Co-chair)

* Full name of institution:

IUCN Species Survival Commission Vulture Specialist Group

* Telephone:

+2782962725

* Email:

havewingstofly@gmail.com

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:

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 area of operation 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 the reporting period, what has your experience of involvement with the Raptors MOU revealed about:

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

- Successful completion of the mid-term implementation review of the CMS Vulture MsAP and submitting the report to COP14 in February 2024.
- Continued function of the CMS Vulture Working Group despite lack of resources.
- VSG members have provided significant input to the CMS Raptors MoU TAG and several members currently serve on this structure.
- We have worked closely with the Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MoU in engaging with the WOA with regard to the threat of NSAID's culminating in a joint publication on this matter.

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

By far the most significant challenge has been limited success in securing funding to support the implementation of the CMS Vulture MsAP since its adoption in 2017. CMS Raptors MoU has also struggled to secure resources to host events such as MOS and TAG meetings and have largely depended on virtual meetings to ensure continuity of the latter. Range States, for various reasons, have been hesitant to commit resources to support these processes. Staff turn-over and continuity - Long delays between the appointment of staff, especially the CU Coordinator resulted in loss of momentum in terms of the functioning of the Raptors MoU. This concern prevails with the tenure of the current incumbent concluding at the end of 2026.

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

Review and update of the CMS Vulture MsAP to be tabled at COP16 in 2029. See comments above about resources - it is essential to secure at least the minimum viable resources to support the Coordinating Unit and its associated activities, including the CMS Vulture MsAP.

III. RAPTOR CONSERVATION STRATEGIES AND EQUIVALENT DOCUMENTS

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.

* Has your organisation cooperated in specific ways with the development of any national and/or regional Raptor Conservation Strategy or equivalent document?

- Yes
- No

* Please state the title, scope and country/ies covered by the strategy/ies or equivalent document/s, and summarise the current status of preparation:

West African Vulture Conservation Action Plan - All West African Range States

Please provide a copy of the document(s) concerned:

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

<https://raptors.cms.int/publication/west-african-vulture-conservation-action-plan-2023-2043>

* Has your organisation cooperated in specific ways with the implementation of any national and/or regional Raptor Conservation Strategy or equivalent document?

- Yes
 No

* Please state the title, scope and country/ies covered by the strategy/ies or equivalent document/s, and summarise the contribution made to implementation:

SADC Vulture Conservation Strategy - 14 SADC Range States

* In relation to the two questions above, what is your overall view of the completeness (by reference to the activities listed in Table 2 of the Action Plan) of the strategy/ies or equivalent document/s to which your answers refer?

- Fully complete
 Partly complete/some gaps
 Incomplete/serious deficiencies

* Please state the nature of the gaps/deficiencies:

Very early stages of implementation.

IV. LEGAL PROTECTION OF SPECIES AGAINST KILLING AND UNSUSTAINABLE EXPLOITATION

* Has your organisation assisted in specific ways with measures to apply legal protection against deliberate killing, taking, trade or other forms of exploitation that may impact negatively on the conservation status of species listed in Annex I of the Raptors MOU?

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.

- Yes
 No

V. SPECIES POPULATION MANAGEMENT AND RECOVERY PROGRAMMES

Has your organisation been involved with the development or implementation of any Single or Multi-species Action Plans for any species of migratory bird of prey in the geographical area covered by the MOU?

- Yes
 No

* Please give the title, species and geographical area covered by the plan/s:

CMS Vulture MsAP

Provide a copy of the document(s) concerned:

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

https://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/cms_cop12_doc.24.1.4_annex3_vulture-msap_e.pdf

* Please summarise the nature of your organisation's involvement:

VSG was a drafting partner and remains involved in the implementation of the plan through the work of its members and its support of the CMS Vulture Working Group.

* Has your organisation been involved with any reintroduction or restocking projects 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

* Has your organisation been involved with any supplementary feeding initiatives for necrophagous birds of prey?

- Yes
 No

* Please identify the country or countries concerned, and give a brief summary:

We promote the use of supplementary feeding under appropriate circumstances anywhere within the entire flyway.

VI. CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF HABITATS AND SITES

* Has your organisation assisted in specific ways with measures to improve or restore the habitat of species of birds of prey?

- Yes
 No

* Has your organisation been involved in identifying, protecting or managing nationally and internationally important sites for birds of prey (including any of the sites listed in Table 3 of the Action Plan)?

- Yes
 No

VII. ASSESSING AND RESPONDING TO THREATS AND PRESSURES

* Has your organisation undertaken or cooperated in any assessments 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

* Please give a brief summary:

The primary focus of the CMS Vulture MsAP is addressing the key threats that impact vultures across the flyway.

* Please identify (tick) the **three most important** categories of threat which, according to your assessment (or informed judgement), are affecting birds of prey in the area(s) you work in:

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)

* 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](#).

Poisoning in its various forms

* Has your organisation assisted in specific ways with measures 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

VIII. ACTION / INTEGRATION ACROSS SECTORS

* Has your organisation been involved in any efforts to ensure that the conservation of migratory birds of prey is integrated within the policies of sectors such as agriculture, forestry, energy, transport, waste, tourism and others?

- Yes

No

- * Please give a brief summary, and identify the country/ies and sector/s, and add any comments on your assessment of the effectiveness or otherwise of the integration instances to which your answer relates:

Refer to the CMS Vulture MsAP and its recommended actions.

- * Has your organisation cooperated in any programmes that have 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

IX. RESEARCH, MONITORING AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

- * Has your organisation undertaken or cooperated in any overall assessments of the status and trends of any populations of migratory birds of prey in the geographical area of the MOU, during the reporting period?

Yes

No

- * Please give a brief summary, specify the geographical scope, and highlight any particularly significant declines or increases that have been revealed for relevant species:

Cape Vulture was down-listed to "Vulnerable" due to a stable to increasing population across its range.

Please provide a copy of any relevant documents:

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

<https://www.iucnredlist.org/search?query=cape%20vulture&searchType=species>

- * Has your organisation undertaken or cooperated in any systematic and coordinated monitoring programmes in relation to breeding populations, reproductive success or migration counts of any of the birds of prey that are covered by the taxonomic and geographical scope of the MOU?

Yes

No

- * Has your organisation assisted with or otherwise been involved with publishing any guidelines or protocols concerning systematic or coordinated monitoring programmes for migratory birds of prey?

Yes

No

- * Please give the source reference(s) and a brief summary, including the nature of your organisation's involvement:

Best practice guide for the harnessing of vultures for tracking

Please provide a copy of any relevant documents:

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

<https://www.iucnvsg.org/guides>

- * Has your organisation assisted with any process for establishing multi-stakeholder agreements about priorities for research on issues of relevance to the conservation of birds of prey?

- Yes
 No

- * Has your organisation cooperated in any platforms for exchanging knowledge, experience and information about the conservation of birds of prey?

- Yes
 No

X. RAISING AWARENESS

- * Has your organisation undertaken or cooperated in any public awareness programmes during the reporting period specifically to promote the importance of birds of prey, their migrations and their conservation needs?

- Yes
 No

- * Please give a brief summary, and identify the country/ies to which this relates:

GUIDANCE:

Comments on the impact and success (or otherwise) of these programmes would also be valuable.

International Vulture Awareness Day (IVAD) is held annually under the auspices of the VSG

- * Has your organisation undertaken or cooperated in any education programmes during the reporting period specifically to inform young people and students about migratory birds of prey and their conservation needs?

- Yes
 No

Please give a brief summary, and identify the country/ies to which this relates:

*

IVAD events in 41 countries in 2025.

XI. STRENGTHENING CAPACITY

* Has your organisation undertaken or cooperated in any training or other support programmes during the reporting period to strengthen the capacity of agencies responsible for the application of relevant laws and regulations?

- Yes
 No

* Please give a brief summary, and identify the country/ies to which this relates:

Wildlife Poisoning Management Training has been presented to more than 7,500 learners in 24 countries in Africa as well as Cambodia.

* Has your organisation undertaken or cooperated in any training or other initiatives 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

* During the reporting period, has your organisation 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 why not:

The VSG has no financial resources to share, but has provided valuable time invested by its members participating in a range of initiatives or activities in support of the CMS Raptors MoU.

- * During the reporting period, has your organisation 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:

Work on a range of projects focused on vultures across the flyway.

XII. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

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

- Yes
- No
- Not known

- * Please give a brief summary:

Most of our activities are focused on supporting international cooperation towards the conservation of vultures across the flyway.

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

- Yes
- No
- Not known

- * Please identify the Range State(s) concerned, and the nature of the support or encouragement given:

VSG has promoted the signing of the Raptors MoU across the range and have participated in signing events, e. g. Uganda in April 2025.

Contact

[Contact Form](#)