



# 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

---

### 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

---

\* Name of Signatory State:

Kingdom of the Netherlands

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

The public bodies of Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba, located in the Carribean

---

### Report Compiler

\* Name and title:

Mr. Nick Warmelink MSc

\* Full name of institution:

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature

\* Telephone:

+31 629636059

\* Email:

n.g.warmelink@minlnv.nl

---

### 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 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)

- The MOU gives the Netherlands a valuable international framework to support and fund conservation in non-EU countries, where Dutch migratory raptors spend a large part of their lives.
- Under the MOU, the Netherlands has collaborated on multiple international Species Action Plans, supporting the conservation of MOU-listed raptors, also those that occur in the Netherlands.
- The Netherlands has a seat on the Technical Advisory Group of the MOU. Through this platform, Dutch scientists deliver technical and scientific input to help underpin and shape global conservation policies.

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

There are no difficulties in implementation. The implementation of the MoU and Action Plan is integrated in our national legislation by its adoption of the contents of the EU Birds Directive (Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds).

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

- To support the conservation of raptors outside of the territory of the EU. One of the Netherlands priorities is focusing on supporting conservation along the flyways. Jointly tackling threats such as habitat deterioration, illegal killing, electrocution and persecution improves the survival of European migratory raptors, supporting EU and Dutch policy goals concerning the conservation of raptor species.
- Continued implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directives and implementation of the EU Nature Restoration Regulation and corresponding National Restoration Plan, to support species and area-based conservation measures, also including the management of cultivated lands, forests and marshlands critical to the benefit of raptors.
- Continued development of the National Ecological Network, a coherent network of existing nature areas, newly (to be) developed nature reserves and important agricultural nature management areas, to support the quality, quantity and interconnectedness of raptor habitats.
- Monitoring the situation regarding potential illegal killing of birds of prey, and address this issue appropriately if illegal killing occurs.
- Monitoring the situation regarding poisoning by pesticides, as there are indications that poisoning by toxic chemicals from pesticide occurs.
- Continued mitigation of collisions with wind turbines following renewable energy development project, including on and offshore wind farms, and to develop improved understanding of cumulative mortality and the effectiveness of mitigation measures.

## 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.*

\* 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” (published in December 2019) is a formal review paper. The report outlines the relations between the goals of Raptors MOU and the EU's legal and policy instruments; the EU Birds and Habitats Directives, the Natura 2000 network and the EU's wider biodiversity policy. The Netherlands reports on the implementation of these EU instruments towards the European Commission

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/sites/default/files/document/The%20EU%27s%20Strategic%20Approach%20to%20Raptor%20Conservation\\_Dec%202019.pdf](https://raptors.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/The%20EU%27s%20Strategic%20Approach%20to%20Raptor%20Conservation_Dec%202019.pdf)

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

- Yes
- Partly
- No

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

---

- \* 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
- Parly
- No
- Not known

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

Afdeling 11.2 Besluit activiteiten leefomgeving. Activiteiten met betrekking to dieren of planten in het wild. § 11.2.2. Flora- en fauna-activiteiten: omgevingsvergunning soorten vogelrichtlijn. All species of migratory birds of prey are granted full legal protection from deliberate killing and taking from the wild. - <https://wetten.overheid.nl/jci1.3:c:BWBR0041330&hoofdstuk=11&afdeling=11.2&z=2025-01-01&g=2025-01-01> [in dutch]

- \* 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:

There is EU legislation on Plant Protection Products (REGULATION (EC) No 1107/2009 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 21 October 2009) and on biocides (REGULATION (EU) No 528/2012 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 22 May 2012). These EU regulations are implemented in national legislation (BWBR0021670 - see attachment). The task of the Dutch Board for the Authorisation of Plant Protection Products and Biocides (Ctgb) is to assess whether plant protection products and biocidal products are safe for humans, animals and the environment before these products can be sold and used in the Netherlands. Aside from allowing products to the market is also dictates regulations on usage. The

precautionary principle is applied, resulting in the fact that products cannot be used unless its safety has been demonstrated through assessment by CTGB.

Law on plant protection products and biocides - <https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0021670/2021-07-01>

## V. SPECIES POPULATION MANAGEMENT AND RECOVERY PROGRAMMES

---

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 state why not:

Focus is placed on implementation of current plans and existing policies and legislation.

\* 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:

Reintroduction projects could be considered if species were unable to reach the Netherlands from other parts of the distribution range, which is not currently the case.

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

- Yes  
 No  
 Not known

\* Please state why not:

There are no resident vultures breeding in the Netherlands, and vagrants visit for brief periods only (eg Griffon Vultures).

## VI. CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF HABITATS AND SITES

---

\* 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.*

- With the implementation of conservation measures in the protected area's of the Natura 2000 network and the National Ecological Network we continuously work on improving and restoring natural habitats which contributes to the conditions for birds of prey.
- One successful habitat innovation in the Netherlands is the development of the "Bird Field" method, pioneered by the Dutch Montagu's Harrier Foundation. Montagu's Harrier has a small but stable population which profits from these localized, specific measures aimed at improving food availability in arable land, such as with fallow land; locally species such as kestrel, marsh harrier, and common and rough-legged buzzard profit too.

\* 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

---

- \* 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:

There have been a number of studies on the threats facing birds of prey, which include persecution, poisoning, habitat deterioration, and decline of food resources particularly in cultivated land. These were conducted by individuals, NGOs that focus on the conservation of raptors, Sovon Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology, The Dutch Raptor Working Group, and universities. From these, measures to maintain a Favourable Conservation Status have been identified, and these include improvement of habitat management (forest, reedland, arable land), and maintenance of food resources in arable land.

Some examples of aforementioned relevant studies:

LIFE EUOKITE (2026): LIFE EUOKITE Crime Report. Illegal persecution of tagged red kites and other raptor species in Europe. Part 13 -Country specific results - Netherlands. First interim report on the results of the LIFE EUOKITE (LIFE18 NAT/AT/000048) project 2020-2024 with additional results from 2013 onwards. February 2026.

The interim results of the LIFE EUOKITE (LIFE18 NAT/AT/000048) project 2020-2024 with additional results from 2013 onwards show, that a total of 12 tagged raptors died in the Netherlands. Of those, 7 individuals (red kites) died due to poisoning.

Raptor Poisoning in Europe between 1996 and 2016: A Continental Assessment of the Most Affected Species and the Most Used Poisons (Buij et al., 2025).

While mapping historical timelines (1996-2016), this assessment analyzed over 3,000 raptor poisoning events across Europe, proving that carbofuran (banned in the EU since 2008) and aldicarb remain the most common killers of facultative scavengers like the Common Buzzard and Red Kite.

State of Birds in the Netherlands 2025 / Vogelbalans (Sovon Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology)

This official report tracks the Favourable Conservation Status (FCS) of Dutch birds including raptors. The multi-year datasets show significant declines in raptors such as rough-legged buzzard, hen and marsh harrier, kestrel and merlin due to ecosystem degradation and food-chain disruption.

Caliendo, V., Bellido Martin, B., Fouchier, R. A., Verdaat, H., Engelsma, M., Beerens, N., & Slaterus, R. (2024). Highly pathogenic avian influenza contributes to the population decline of the Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) in The Netherlands. *Viruses*, 17(1), 24.

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5 outbreaks, particularly in 2023 when over 80% of tested, deceased Peregrine Falcons in the Netherlands were infected, are a significant threat to the species and contribute to their population decline. The study, which also found no virus in unhatched eggs, highlights that this, along with anthropogenic factors, necessitates immediate targeted surveillance and mitigation to protect

the birds.

Bijlsma, R. G. (2020). Invloed van grootschalige boskap op broedende roofvogels. De Takkeling, 28(3), 200-270.[in dutch]

A 30-year study in West Drenthe shows a large, accelerated decline in raptor populations following 2000, when non-native tree habitats were heavily clear-felled. All monitored raptor species, which preferred nesting in the removed non-native trees, experienced significant population drops of 50-85% by 2016, with some species vanishing entirely. This population crash, driven by forest loss, was intensified by a 30-fold increase in recreation and a failure to implement mandated, protective 50-meter safety buffers around active nesting sites. Consequently, all breeding raptor populations declined and nesting success plummeted, with increased predation linked to a 80% decrease in available prey biomass.

\* 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](#).*

1. Improvement of habitat quality in arable land, for improved nest protection and increased prey resources (harriers, kestrel, buzzard, rough-legged buzzard, short-eared owl),

2. Nest protection including buffer zones around nests for reduced disturbance (White-tailed Eagle, harriers)
3. Criminal investigation of poisoning incidents, sites with frequent disturbance (Buzzard, Goshawk, Marsh Harrier)

- \* 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:

Proposals for activities that may have impact on the environment are subjected to Environmental Impact Assessments, as required by the Environment and Planning Act (BWBR0006788). EIA's involve an assessment on the impact, including the protection of birds of prey and their habitat. Results of EIA's are used to inform decisions and if relevant appropriate mitigation or compensation measures.

Regulation on EIA

<https://wetten.overheid.nl/jci1.3:c:BWBR0037885&hoofdstuk=16&afdeling=16.4&z=2026-06-04&g=2026-06-04>

## 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:

- Forest management. There are general guidelines related to the prevention of disturbance of nest sites in forests, through a code of conduct in forestry, which prescribes a buffer zone of 50m from raptor nests for harvesting activities.
- Individual cases of the loss of raptor nests or breeding success however still occur due to inadequate implementation of these standards. Forest management often includes forest conversion towards stands of naturally occurring trees to support native biodiversity. As a result stands of (non-native) trees are being felled on a large scale in parts of the Netherlands. Strong local decline of raptors in the forested eastern half of the country was concomitant to these conversions, because many raptor species had shown a significant preference for nesting in non-native trees.
- Wind energy. Energy policies and legal obligations can mandate that wind developers install predictive radar systems and camera technology when mortality is expected to significantly affect vulnerable species such as raptors. When large migrating birds of prey (like White-tailed Eagles or Red Kites) approach a wind farm, the turbines are automatically slowed down or shut off entirely. However, not all wind farms have established these measures, and in general, predicting casualties is difficult and the monitoring of mitigation measures and monitoring of casualties is not fully implemented.
- Through the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), the Dutch government financially rewards farmers who convert portions of their land into "Bird Fields" (Vogelakkers). These fallow, crop-mixed zones are specifically designed to breed field voles, providing stable food supplies for the Montagu's Harrier and Short-eared Owl. However, these are highly localized measures, and most of the country's agricultural land use is intensive and has become much less suitable for raptors and their prey.
- In highly visited nature reserves like the Veluwe, tourism policies include seasonal zoning. Hiking trails, mountain biking paths, and drone usage are legally restricted or temporarily closed off if they overlap with the active nesting grounds of sensitive birds of prey.

\* 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 known

\* Please state why not:

Over the period 2021-2026 no additional and specific programmes were undertaken among government departments to inform decision makers on the specific conservation needs of migratory birds of prey. Programs generally focus on general and multi-species group conservation approaches.

## IX. RESEARCH, MONITORING AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

---

\* 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:

As part of the Network Ecological Monitoring yearly status and trend updates are made for all birds, among which migratory species. Population monitoring for active breeding pairs is coordinated country wide by the Sovon breeding bird monitoring, or other monitoring schemes for different/non-breeding species groups. The activities of the Dutch Raptor Working Group focus on the breeding populations of all raptors in the country. There are separate working groups for various species, including Montagu's harrier, White-tailed Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, who organize coordinated monitoring including ringing of nestlings. Close mutual links ensure rapid exchange of information. To monitor the distribution and number of Dutch birds of prey, volunteers of the WRN take the following steps:

- monitoring of territories and nests of birds of prey in fixed areas each year;
- nest checks to gain insight into (a) start of the egg laying, (b) clutch size, (c) number of hatched eggs, (d) number of hatched birds, (e) sex ratios, (f) diet, and (g) nest success;
- ringing of nestlings.

With this monitoring scheme, population studies are standardized and statically reliable nationwide, for analysis of shifts in distribution and trends.

In general, the conservation status of raptors in the Netherlands is a decrease or stable population for most species, with increasing (but still very small or small) populations of Red Kite, Osprey, White-tailed Eagle, and Peregrine Falcon.

Please provide a copy of any relevant documents:

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

<https://stats.sovon.nl/stats/?language=english>

- \* 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:

Yes. This information is also part of the assessments that are made for the Network Ecological Monitoring.

Please provide a copy of any relevant documents:

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

- \* 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 systematic and coordinated monitoring programmes are run by the Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology (SOVON). SOVON produces guidelines and protocols for the monitoring programs.

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

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

SOVON website - <https://www.sovon.nl/indexen-en-aantallen>  
Rob Bijlsma/ the Dutch Raptor Working Group published the following book with guidelines and protocols that many adhere to: Bijlsma, R.G., 1997. Handleiding veldonderzoek roofvogels. De takkeling, 5(1), pp.5-6.

\* 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 give a brief summary:

The Ecological Monitoring Network (Netwerk Ecologische Monitoring - NEM) is the primary state-backed framework that brings all major stakeholders together to decide national research and monitoring priorities. It officially unites the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature (LNV), the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management (I&W), the Planbureau voor de Leefomgeving (PBL), Statistics Netherlands (CBS), non-governmental data organizations—specifically Sovon and the Dutch Raptor Network (Werkgroep Roofvogels Nederland - WRN) and provincial governments (BIJ12).

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

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

\* 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:

The Netherlands has well-established platforms in place to exchange knowledge, experience, and information regarding the conservation of birds of prey, bridging the gap between amateur birdwatchers, academic researchers, and government policymakers. The central national platform specifically dedicated to this mission is the Werkgroep Roofvogels Nederland, which coordinates a network of regional raptor working groups across all Dutch provinces. This group hosts conferences, publishes specialized scientific research papers, and acts as a central digital knowledge base where field volunteers and professional ornithologists exchange standardized nesting data and field protection methodologies. Alongside them, the Sovon Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology operates as the principal bird knowledge organization in the country, managing nationwide wild bird monitoring programs. Sovon provides a unified open-access statistics dashboard where researchers, terrain managers, and government bodies exchange data on raptor population trends, seasonal distributions, and tracking telemetry studies. On an academic level, the Centre for Avian Population Studies operates as a premier collaborative umbrella platform. This expert forum officially brings together the country's top ornithological research institutions, including the Netherlands Institute of Ecology, Radboud University, the Dutch Bird Migration scheme, and Vogelbescherming Nederland, to share advanced scientific information regarding avian demography, migratory bird health, and population pressures to help shape European wildlife policy. Finally, the Netherlands heavily engages with cross-border knowledge networks along the East Atlantic Flyway under international projects like LIFE IP GrassBirdHabitats and LIFE EUOKITE. Through these frameworks, Dutch conservationists routinely participate in international field trips, workshops, and joint data pools with site managers from across Europe and Africa to share practical field experience regarding habitat optimization and infrastructure threat mitigation.

## X. RAISING AWARENESS

---

\* 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:

- Year of the Kestrel (2025): A national media campaign by Birdlife Netherlands and SOVON that mobilized citizens and schools to build nest boxes and map declining Common Kestrel numbers. Impact hard to quantify /unknown.
- Experience Bird Migration: A national park ecotourism program using public excursions and volunteer field stations to highlight the comeback of Sea-eagles and Ospreys. Impact hard to quantify/unknown.
- Beleef de Lente: An annual digital project by Birdlife Netherlands using 24/7 nest webcams of, amongst others, eagles and falcons to teach millions of online viewers about breeding raptors and threats. Impact hard to quantify/unknown.

\* 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:

- Beleef de Lente ('experience spring') School Modules: An annual digital curriculum featuring downloadable lesson plans, interactive quizzes, and short video clips based around live 24/7 webcams of nesting bird species, including white-tailed eagles, kestrels, and falcons.
- The Kestrel Education Kit (2025): A primary school resource pack launched for the Year of the Kestrel that includes DIY bird-feeder guides, classroom posters, and instructions on how to build and monitor kestrel nest boxes.
- Wadden Sea Flyway Classrooms: An international educational project operating along the coast that uses interactive story-maps and field-trip workbooks to teach high school students how migratory raptors like Ospreys use the Wadden Sea as a vital global refueling station.
- National Park Ranger Schools: An outdoor learning program across major Dutch parks (like Lauwersmeer) where school groups use binoculars, tracking sheets, and pellet-dissection kits to learn firsthand how raptors hunt and survive.

## XI. STRENGTHENING CAPACITY

---

\* 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 state why not:

Current capacities deemed sufficient and other priorities were set for capacity strengthening.

\* 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:

These include training on nest monitoring (Dutch raptor working group, Sovon), training on the ringing of nestlings (Dutch raptor working group, the Dutch Centre for Avian Migration and Demography or Vogeltrekstation), and training on nest protection measures and monitoring nesting harriers (e.g. Grauwe Kiekendief - Kenniscentrum Akkervogels). The Werkgroep Roofvogels Nederland (WRN) and the Dutch Bird Migration Scheme (Vogeltrekstation) maintain hands-on training tracks to build local field capacity. Dutch national and regional authorities provide financial support for many of these activities.

\* 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:

- Under new eco-scheme rules, foraging habitats known as bird fields have been legally codified into the national registry as approved rest crops. This change allows Dutch farmers to claim complete funding grants from provincial budgets through 2026 to transition active agricultural plots into unharvested, rodent-rich fallow strips, which directly expands the hunting grounds for endangered species like the Montagu’s harrier and the short-eared owl.
- Because of the rapid expansion of the wind energy grid, the ministry responsible for climate policy has injected significant new capital to fund the procurement and installation of automated camera and radar detection networks. This financial investment pays for the technology required to mandate real-time turbine shutdowns when species such as white-tailed sea-eagle or red kites approach moving blades, which reduces infrastructure mortality rates.
- the Dutch government utilizes its foreign aid network via the Netherlands Agricultural Network and Dutch embassies to finance expanded capacity programs running into 2026. This money directly finances the training of rangers and observers in bottleneck nations along the flyway, such as Morocco, to stop illegal poaching and poisoning before migratory raptors return to Europe to breed.

\* 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 why not:

Because the Netherlands is classified as a wealthy, high-income country under the United Nations framework, it acts as a "donor state" rather than a recipient of international wildlife aid. Instead of receiving external grants, the country generates its own funding through domestic tax revenue and co-finances large-scale European Union initiatives

## XII. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

---

\* 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:

Yes, the Netherlands has actively participated in international cooperation activities between 2021 and 2026, as outlined under the core principles of the Raptors MOU.

- Through its involvement in gps tracking studies, such as the European LIFE EUOKITE network, Dutch bird protection agencies and universities share and receive satellite tracking and GPS backpack coordinates. This international data exchange maps out the migration routes of species like the Red Kite, Honey buzzard, common kestrel and others, as they move across Western Europe, generating the data required to jointly monitor threats along flyways.

- The Dutch government engages in bilateral nature diplomacy through the Netherlands Agricultural Network (LAN) and its foreign embassy systems. During the 2021–2026 reporting period, the Netherlands backed and financed collaborative training workshops in North African migration bottleneck states like Morocco. These programs bring together Dutch ecological experts and local African observers to protect essential Mediterranean wetlands, ensuring that joint conservation priorities are established for the shared flyway.

- As a signatory, the Netherlands regularly provides leadership within the formal governance structures of the convention. Concurrently, Dutch ornithological experts from academic centers actively contribute research to the MOU's specialized Technical Advisory Group to help draft, review, and evaluate international single-species action plans across Europe and Eurasia.

\* 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:

Limited capacity to undertake steps to support expansion of the Raptors MOU.

## Contact

[alexandra.caron-strehlow@un.org](mailto:alexandra.caron-strehlow@un.org)