Contribution ID: ae1e4b4c-63d1-43f3-b1ef-9476ee1b7016
Date: 08/07/2026 15:06:40

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:

ITALY

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

NO

Report Compiler

* Name and title:

Arianna Aradis, Technical National Focal Point RMOU and Officers of the Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security

* Full name of institution:

The Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research-ISPRA and Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security-MASE

* Telephone:

+390645650368

* Email:

arianna.aradis@isprambiente.it

Designated Contact Point for the MOU
(if different from Report Compiler)

Name and title of designated Contact Point:

Silvia Giardina

Full name of institution:

Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security-MASE

Mailing address:

V. Cristoforo Colombo 44, 00147 Roma, Italy

Telephone:

+390650073402

Email:

giardina.silvia@mase.gov.it

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)

1 The network of SPAs, that contributes to the conservation of birds of prey, has grown, reaching 842 SPAs covering over 6,200,000 hectares of land and sea.

2. Improvements in conservation status were recorded for the Griffon Vulture (Gyps fulvus, downlisted from CR to NT). Restocking programme of at least 72 Griffon Vultures released in southern Sardinia (Sarrabus-Gerrei) during the reporting period, in the framework of LIFE Safe for Vultures project.

3. In 2021, the Osprey (Pandion haliaetus) was assessed nationally for the first time and classified as CR, reflecting its recent recolonisation through the reintroduction programme launched in 2006.

4. The institution of a national Anti-poison Dog Unit network of at least 15 anti-poison dog units (ADUs) currently active across Italy, with other 10 units planned under a specific LIFE project, which will specifically target poaching of Egyptian Vulture among its three focal species.

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

1. Absence of stable, dedicated funding beyond EU LIFE project cycles, undermining continuity of conservation actions once projects close;

2. Coordination among the institutions and people involved in raptor monitoring and conservation not always effective;

3. Absence of a national monitoring scheme for birds of prey and lack of an integrated national database, resulting in fragmented and non-comparable data across regions, research groups and volunteers' teams.

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

1. Prioritize the retrofitting of dangerous power lines in areas of documented raptor mortality and high bird concentration and ensure that spatial planning processes for new energy infrastructure (including wind farms and photovoltaic plants) integrate bird sensitivity mapping and rigorous Environmental Impact Assessment, particularly along migratory flyways and in breeding areas of threatened species;

2. Ensure full and effective implementation of identified priority actions against IKB in line with commitments under the Rome Strategic Plan;

3. Establish a national monitoring scheme and integrated database for migratory birds of prey, ensuring continuity and coordination across regional species-specific monitoring projects;

4. Ensure the long-term continuity of reintroduction and population recovery programmes for priority species, securing stable funding mechanisms beyond individual EU LIFE project cycles.

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
- [x] No

* Please state the reasons why a national and/or regional Raptor Conservation Strategy or equivalent document has not been developed:

The actions for raptors conservation are already foreseen in the provisions of the Birds Directive, and part of the competence is entrusted to the regions. At national level, there are numerous conservation experiences and individual action plans, such as species-specific action plans for several raptors, including the Egyptian Vulture, Lanner Falcon, Eleonora's Falcon and Lesser Kestrel.

* 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 activities comply with the requirements of the Birds Directive.

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:

All diurnal and nocturnal birds of prey are strictly protected in Italy under National Law No. 157/1992. Any form of killing, capture, keeping or trade is prohibited, and administrative and criminal sanctions are provided for in cases of infringement.

* 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:

The deliberate use of poisoned baits for the killing of wildlife is prohibited under Italian Law No. 157/1992 and is subject to criminal penalties under the Italian Penal Code. The ban is further regulated through Ministerial Ordinances issued by the Ministry of Health, renewed and updated periodically since 2008 (most recently: Ministerial Ordinance of 8 August 2025, GU n. 212/2025).

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
- [x] No
- [ ] In preparation

* Please state why not:

During the reporting period (November 2021 – April 2026), no new Single Species Action Plans for migratory birds of prey have been published in Italy, nor have any of the existing SAP plans been updated.

The following national SSAPs, all published prior to the reporting period, are accessible in Italian at https://www.isprambiente.gov.it/it/pubblicazioni/quaderni/conservazione-della-natura:

Lanner Falcon (Falco biarmicus feldeggii) - National SAP, 2007*
Eleonora's Falcon (Falco eleonorae) - National SAP, 2007
Egyptian Vulture (Neophron percnopterus) - National SAP, 2009
Lesser Kestrel (Falco naumanni) - National SAP, 2017

*An update to this plan was identified as a deliverable of LIFE LANNER (LIFE18 NAT/IT/000720); as of April 2026 this action has not still achieved.

Within the framework of the LIFE ConRaSi project, a regional Action plan for the “Lanner Falcon in Sicily“ was produced for the conservation of the Lanner Falcon (Falco biarmicus feldeggii) in Sicily, https://www.lifeconrasi.eu/download-it

* 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 give a brief summary, and indicate whether or not captive breeding is involved:

Egyptian Vulture - southern Italy: restocking programme carried out in the framework of LIFE Egyptian Vulture (LIFE16 NAT/IT/000659, October 2017- September 2023, after-LIFE conservation activities continuing through 2025). In the reporting period, 12 captive-bred individuals were released in Basilicata and one in Sicily (Parco della Murgia Materana e Parco delle Madonie respectively) bringing the total number of individuals released under this programme to 30. No wild-caught birds involved. Captive breeding and releases coordinated by CERM Centro Rapaci Minacciati Association (www.associazionecerm.it) and ISPRA (https://www.lifegyptianvulture.it);

Lanner Falcon: restocking programme in the framework of LIFE LANNER (LIFE18 NAT/IT/000720, January 2020-September 2026). In the reporting period, 20 captive-bred juveniles were released via hacking technique in central Italy (Lazio Region) (https://www.lifelanner.eu);

Red Kite (Milvus milvus) - Calabria: reintroduction programme in the framework of LIFE MILVUS (LIFE18 NAT /IT/000917, October 2019 - September 2027). In the reporting period, 40 individuals were released. All from donor areas in Switzerland (Canton Fribourg), France (Corsica) and Basilicata (https://www.lifemilvusproject.it);

Griffon Vulture (Gyps fulvus)
- Sardinia: restocking programme in the framework of LIFE Safe for Vultures (LIFE19 NAT/IT/000732, January 2021 - December 2026). At least 72 Griffon Vultures were released in southern Sardinia (Sarrabus-Gerrei) during the reporting period. Birds were predominantly wild-sourced from Spain, with a minority of captive-bred individuals from zoological institutions in the Netherlands and Czech Republic (www.lifesafeforvultures.eu);

- Sicily: reintroduction programme (Fondazione Internazionale Biodiversità del Mediterraneo/FIBIMED, Parco Naturale Regionale delle Madonie). 19 individuals from Spain (GREFA, arrived Feb 2023) released Jan-Apr 2024; a further 19 (arrived Apr 2024) released in 2025. Target: ~75 individuals released 2024-2026. Feeding stations supplied with lead-free-culled fallow deer (Dama dama) carcasses. Colony now exceeds 70 individuals, over half arrived spontaneously; first successful natural breeding recorded in 2026 (wild pair from the Nebrodi population). Feeding stations also attracted Egyptian Vultures, with a breeding pair formed in 2024 and a chick born June 2025 - the first confirmed breeding in the Madonie massif since the 1980s. All released birds were wild-caught; monitoring by FIBIMED (FIBIMED: https://fibimed.com/reintroduzione-del-grifone-gyps-fulvus-nel-parco-delle-madonie);

Pollino National Park- in the reporting period, 30 griffon vulture (release funded by Regione Calabria) were realised in the framework of Progetto Grifone Pollino Nation park (Pollino National Park, P. Serroni comm.pers. 2026)

-Central Apennines: restocking programme by Rewilding Apennines in collaboration with GREFA (Spain) and Wildlife Comeback Fund (https://rewildingeurope.com/european-wildlife-comeback-fund/) and Carabinieri Forestali. The project is a three-year initiative to strengthen the Italian Apennines population and restore essential natural processes across the landscape. On March 2026, 25 individuals were moved from Spain to RNO Monte Velino to be released in autumn 2026. This is the first supplementation of the Apennine population since the original reintroduction from 1994 to 2002 when 93 griffons were released. The overall aim is the release of around 60 griffons over three years (https://rewilding-apennines.com/news/the-griffon-vulture-takes-off-again-for-the-apennines-for-europe);

Lesser Kestrel: hacking and translocation programme implemented under LIFE FALKON (LIFE17 NAT/IT /000586, July 2018 - December 2023), aimed at promoting the northward expansion of the species' breeding range. Wild nestlings from the Matera colony (Basilicata Region) were translocated annually during 2021-2023

to artificial nesting towers in the Po Plain (Emilia-Romagna and Lombardia Regions). The programme relied on translocation of wild chicks and did not involve captive breeding.
(https://www.alda-europe.eu/the-life-falkon-project-a-conservation-success-that-already-involves-other-protected-species

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

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No
- ( ) Not known

* Please give a brief summary:

During the reporting period, the network of supplementary feeding stations for vultures and other birds of prey in Italy remained broadly similar to that described in the most recent national review of feeding sites (Genero et al. 2022). Only a limited number of historical feeding stations were supplied regularly on a long-term basis, while additional sites were established and maintained through regional, local conservation initiatives and project-based activities, including temporary operations to support specific conservation actions for threatened scavenging raptors.

At the local level, supplementary feeding sites were managed by protected areas, regional authorities, private stakeholders and non-governmental organisations including CERM, ALTURA, MEDRAPTORS, StOrCal, FIBIMED and other local conservation organisations.
The establishment and maintenance of most supplementary feeding stations depended largely on funding through LIFE projects and other conservation programmes, together with the long-term commitment of NGOs, protected areas and private donors.

The most significant development has occurred in Sardinia. Under LIFE Under Griffon Wings (LIFE14 NAT/IT /000484), a network of 37 farm-based feeding stations was established, alongside two historical centralised feeding stations managed by Agenzia Forestas at Porto Conte (Alghero) and Monte Minerva (Villanova Monteleone). Building on this experience, LIFE Safe for Vultures (LIFE19 NAT/IT/000732) is continuing to expand the network into the newly approved feeding area in eastern and southern Sardinia, where 26 farm-based stations are currently active. A new centralised station at Cea Romana (Villasalto), managed by Agenzia Forestas and operational since 2023, was also established under LIFE Safe for Vultures.
Sardinia remains the only Italian region where farm-based feeding stations have been formally authorised by regional and local veterinary authorities. The first farm-based vulture feeding station established within an Italian national park was also created in Asinara National Park under LIFE Safe for Vultures (www. lifesafeforvultures.eu).

*Genero et al. 2022. Feeding points for vultures and other birds of prey in Italy. In: Bassi E., Mercogliano A. & Sartirana F. (eds.), Info Gipeto n. 38. ERSAF - Parco Nazionale dello Stelvio ed Ente Aree Protette Alpi Marittime, Bormio.

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.

LIFE Egyptian Vulture (LIFE16 NAT/IT/000659): 1,096 MV supports insulated for Egyptian Vulture across Basilicata, Puglia, Calabria and Sicily; ~700–750 completed in this period [1];

LIFE IP GESTIRE 2020 (LIFE14 IPE/IT/018, 2016–2023): ~20 km of power lines in Alpine/pre-Alpine Lombardy secured; target species included Black Kite [2];

Following LIFE Gestire 2020, Province of Sondrio submitted a project under Regione Lombardia PAC 2023–2027 for mitigation of a further 51 km of MT powerlines for Peregrine, Golden Eagle, Black Kite and Short-toed Eagle [3];

LIFE Safe for Vultures (LIFE19 NAT/IT/000732): 77 supports insulated across 19 km of MV network (Sardinia); at Asinara National Park 16 km of MV bare-conductor lines placed underground and 7 tower cabinets replaced [4] [16];

LIFE MILVUS (LIFE18 NAT/IT/000917): 293 MV supports insulated for reintroduced Red Kite population (Calabria) [4];

LIFE LANNER (LIFE18 NAT/IT/000720): 363 supports insulated across 30+ km of MV network in four protected areas, Lazio Region [5];

ElectroRevolution: aims to reduce bird electrocution in Sardinia, especially raptors, retrofitting ~130 hazardous poles [6];

LIFE ABILAS (LIFE23 NAT/IT/101147372): powerline mitigation in Sardinia planned within Bonelli's Eagle reintroduction [7];

"Volo libero" project – Parco Nazionale del Pollino/E-distribuzione (June 2024): ~100 MV pylons insulated and 4.5 km bare-conductor LV lines replaced with insulated cable (Basilicata), funded by Regione Basilicata [8];

Riserva Naturale Orientata Biviere e Macconi di Gela (Sicily): MV lines replaced with insulated cable, tower insulation, deterrence devices and nesting structures installed by Regione Sicilia, Riserva authority and E-distribuzione S.p.A. Target species: Egyptian Vulture, Lanner Falcon, Marsh Harrier [4].

LIFE LANNER (LIFE18 NAT/IT/000720): restored 144 ha of grasslands as Lanner Falcon foraging habitat, Lazio Region; restored 5 watering troughs for grazing; cleared vegetation on 8 cliff faces as future nesting sites [9];

LIFE Falkon (LIFE17 NAT/IT/000586): habitat improvement for Lesser Kestrel at the north-eastern edge of its Italian breeding range [10];

LIFE IMAGINE UMBRIA (LIFE19 IPE/IT/000015, 2020–2027): integrated Natura 2000 management strategy in Umbria for Apennine grasslands/fauna, including mapping of key areas for Golden Eagle and other scavengers, identification of poisoned-bait sites, assessment of Montagu's Harrier breeding areas at risk from mowing /harvesting, and securing hazardous MV power line sections [11];

LIFE FALKON (LIFE17 NAT/IT/000586): 209 nest boxes across 37 sites and 5 towers (100 further nests) installed in the Po Plain (Emilia-Romagna/Lombardia) to support northward range expansion of Lesser Kestrel [12];

Red-footed Falcon: LIPU-coordinated nest box programme at Italy's main breeding colony (Emilia-Romagna), started under LIFE Pianura Parmense 2009–2012. In 2025, 109/200 boxes occupied, plus 32 pairs in natural corvid nests [13].

Osprey: artificial nesting platforms maintained under the national Osprey conservation programme [14]; further platforms installed by other stakeholders.

Nest Boxes on Pylons programme (1998–ongoing): Terna S.p.A., with NGO Ornis Italica, installed nest boxes on HV pylons across Italy for kestrel, peregrine falcon and scops owl. Terna maintains/replaces boxes; Ornis Italica continues annual monitoring of occupancy and breeding performance [15].

References:
[1] https://www.lifegyptianvulture.it
[2] https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/project/LIFE14-IPE-IT-000018/nature-integrated-management-to-2020
[3] Bassi E. & Mercogliano A. 2025. Messa in sicurezza di linee elettriche MT gestite da e-distribuzione in provincia di Sondrio. Relazione tecnica, Amm. Provinciale di Sondrio, 34 pp.
[4] E-distribuzione S.p.A. (2025). Simposio «La Prevenzione del Rischio di Elettrocuzione dell'Avifauna», Rome, 26 March 2025; https://lifemilvusproject.it/documenti/
[5] https://www.e-distribuzione.it/archivio-news/2025/07/prevenzione-rischio-elettrocuzione-falco-lanario.html
[6] https://www.isprambiente.gov.it/en/projects/biodiversity/electrorevolution
[7] https://www.isprambiente.gov.it/en/projects/biodiversity/life-abilas
[8] https://www.e-distribuzione.it/archivio-news/2024/06/avifauna--in-basilicata-previsti-nuovi-interventi-di-messa-in-si.html
[9] www.lifelanner.eu
[10] www.lifefalkon.eu
[11] www.lifeimagine.eu/aree-di-intervento/uccelli/; www.lifeimagine.eu/aree-di-intervento/praterie/
[12] https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/project/LIFE17-NAT-IT-000586
[13] www.lipu.it
[14] https://www.falcopescatore.it/
[15] www.terna.it/it/progetti-territorio/avifauna/nidi-tralicci; www.ornisitalica.com/projects/
[16] www.lifesafeforvultures.eu

* 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 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:

1.ISPRA satellite telemetry study on avifaunal mortality (January 2026). A systematic national assessment of anthropogenic and natural mortality causes was commissioned by MASE and carried out by ISPRA. The study covers 623 mortality events across 21 species belonging to 6 families including Accipitridae, Falconidae, Strigidae. Report key findings: anthropogenic mortality is 1.9 times higher than natural mortality; electrocution and illegal killing together account for 44.7% of deaths with a known cause; infrastructure-related mortality (electrocution + collision) combined with poaching (poisoning + illegal killing) exceeds 50% of all known-cause deaths. Electrocution disproportionately affects species with unfavourable conservation status, including Egyptian Vulture, Bonelli's Eagle and Lanner Falcon (Andreotti et al. 2026. Le minacce per l'avifauna in Italia: focus sull'elettrocuzione. Technical Report, ISPRA/MASE, January 2026).

2.Article 12 Birds Directive national reporting (2019–2024). Italy's national reporting data under Article 12 of the Birds Directive (reporting period 2019–2024, submitted to the European Commission in 2025) provides a comprehensive assessment of pressures and threats for all raptor species covered by the Directive (https://reportnet.europa.eu/public/dataflow/1438).

3.Impact assessment of powerlines on raptors in the Alto Garda Bresciano regional park Northern Italy (2022–2024). Between 2022 and 2024, a study funded by energy companies A2A and Unareti assessed the impact of powerlines on five raptor species (Bubo bubo, Aquila chrysaetos, Falco peregrinus, Circaetus gallicus, Milvus migrans) in the Alto Garda Bresciano Regional Park (Northern Italy). Powerlines accounted for 60.4% of all recorded injury and mortality cases, with the Eurasian Eagle-Owl as the most affected species. Camera trap monitoring revealed severe underestimation of mortality due to rapid carcass removal (75% of carcasses were entirely removed within 10 days, with a median persistence time of 34.5 hours). (Bassi, E. 2025. Impact assessment of powerlines on birds of prey in Northern Italy: Risk assessment and solutions applied to reduce the threat In: Monti, F., Costanzo, A., Ramellini, S. (Eds.) Atti XXII Conv. It. Ornitologia. CISO. DOI: 10.48372 /39Z0-HG45).

4.Drowning in open-top water storage tanks has been identified as a documented and underreported source of raptor mortality. Open-sided agricultural water tanks, livestock troughs and cisterns pose a particular hazard for large-winged scavenging raptors such as the Red Kite (Milvus milvus). In this identical context, this anthropogenic threat has also been heavily documented as a critical cause of mortality for the Bonelli's Eagle (Aquila fasciata) in Sicily. In the context of the LIFE Milvus project (LIFE18 NAT/IT/000917), drowning is explicitly identified alongside electrocution and poisoning as one of the key threats to be mitigated. Following monitoring evidence of drowning mortality events in GPS-tracked released birds, since January 2026 a retrofitting campaign targeting more than 80 open-top water storage tanks in the project area has been planned (G. Ceccolini, LIFE Milvus Project, pers. comm., 2026).

5.Heat wave (climate change) and context-dependent effectiveness of nestbox. A long-term research programme on the Lesser Kestrel colony of Matera (Basilicata, south Italy) the largest in the Mediterranean, with over 1,000 breeding pairs has provided critical evidence of the impact of climate change on the species' reproductive success in Italy. An experimental nest-cooling study conducted in 2021–2022 demonstrated that during heatwaves (air temperatures exceeding 37°C for at least two consecutive days), nest temperatures in standard nestboxes exceeded those in shaded nestboxes by an average of 3.9°C. When internal nest temperatures surpassed 44°C, hatching failure exceeded 50%, and nestling mortality was attributable primarily to lethal hyperthermia and/or dehydration; surviving nestlings showed impaired body mass and skeletal growth. A subsequent comparative study across two Italian populations - Matera in the south and the Po Plain in the north - further demonstrated that nestboxes function as ecological traps in thermally extreme environments: nestling survival in Matera reached 92% in natural cavities versus 45% in nestboxes, whereas in the Po Plain the pattern was reversed. These findings underscore the context-dependent effectiveness of nestbox provision as a conservation tool and highlight the urgency of designing thermally insulated artificial nesting structures for populations at the southern edge of the species' range (Corregidor-Castro et al. 2023, 2026).

* 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)

- [x] Direct killing and taking
- [x] Collisions and electrocution
- [ ] Alien and/or invasive species
- [ ] Disturbance and disruption
- [x] 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.

Direct killing and taking
In 2025, the national Steering Committee on Illegal Killing of Birds (IKB), originally established under the National Action Plan (NAP-IKB, 2017-2020), was renewed through Ministerial Decree No. 349/2025. The renewed Committee lead by MASE adopted the document Priority Actions for Combating Illegal Killing of Birds (IKB) 2025–2030, providing the national framework for the implementation of the Rome Strategic Plan (RSP) and supporting its objective of reducing illegal bird killing by 50% by 2030.

LIFE Fight4Wildlife (LIFE24-NAT-IT-FIGHT4WILDLIFE/101216050, February 2026-January 2031), which specifically targets poaching of Egyptian Vulture among its three focal species (European eel, Egyptian vulture and Apennine brown bear). The project aims to strengthen the prevention, detection and prosecution of wildlife crime. Key actions include the establishment of specialised wildlife crime training programmes, the creation of dedicated enforcement teams and canine units, and the training of law enforcement personnel and staff from other management authorities. The project will enhance national coordination through governance panels focused on priority species, develop artificial intelligence tools to support investigations and reporting, and upgrade the national wildlife crime database by incorporating at least 8,000 records and innovative analytical tools to improve data management and intelligence gathering (https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/project/LIFE24-NAT-IT-FIGHT4WILDLIFE-101216050/urgent-actions-to-prevent-and-contrast-poaching-of-three-focal-species-in-critical-danger-of-extinction-in-italy-european-eel-egyptian-vulture-and-apennine-brown-bear);

Poisoning: Since 2019, a national online “poisoning database”, developed by the Italian Ministry of Health and the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale del Lazio e della Toscana (IZSLT), has provided a standardized platform for reporting and monitoring wildlife poisoning incidents, including those affecting birds of prey. The system supports the collection and analysis of national data on the occurrence, distribution and frequency of poisoning events, contributing to surveillance, enforcement and conservation efforts (https://avvelenamenti.izslt.it/) ”. Since October 2022, the Ministry of Health, in collaboration with the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale del Lazio e della Toscana (IZSLT) and the National Reference Centre for Forensic Veterinary Medicine, has made available a free mobile application - "Bocconi Avvelenati" ("Poisoned Baits") - for iOS and Android. The app represents a technological evolution of the National Portal for Intentional Animal Poisoning, established in 2019. It enables citizens to report suspected poisoned baits in real time with geolocation, and to consult interactive maps displaying confirmed poisoning incidents and risk areas across Italy. https://www.izslt.it/comunicati-stampa-2022/bocconi-avvelenati-scarica-dal-qr-la-nuova-applicazione.html

A network of at least 15 anti-poison dog units (ADUs) is currently active across Italy, deployed within Carabinieri Forestali structures, protected area management authorities and regional wildlife enforcement bodies; a further 10 units are planned under LIFE Fight4Wildlife (LIFE24-NAT-IT-FIGHT4WILDLIFE/101216050, started February 2026), which specifically targets poaching of Egyptian Vulture among its three focal species.

Many protected areas, including National Parks, Nature Reserves, and Natura 2000 sites (SPAs and SACs), enforce strict, localized restrictions through dedicated management regulations to minimize human disturbance to birds of prey, particularly during the sensitive breeding and nesting seasons. Under Italian Framework Law No. 394/1991, unauthorized low-altitude overflights by aircraft, helicopters, paragliders, and drones are strictly prohibited within National Parks, as these aerial activities cause acute acoustic and visual stress that can lead to nest abandonment and reproductive failure; Similarly, rock climbing, bouldering, and the opening of new climbing routes are strictly regulated, heavily restricted, or subject to total seasonal closures from courtship until fledging to protect cliff-nesting raptors such as the Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Egyptian Vulture, and Griffon Vulture

* 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:

Italy has a comprehensive regulatory framework ensuring that proposals for activities with significant effects on birds of prey or their habitats are subject to prior environmental assessment.
The applicable EU instruments are the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and the EIA Directive (2011/92/EU as amended). These are transposed into national law through Legislative Decree no. 152/2006 (Environmental Code), which regulates EIA and SEA, and Presidential Decree no. 357/1997, which establishes the Appropriate Assessment for plans and projects likely to affect Natura 2000 sites. Standardised national criteria for the Appropriate Assessment (VIncA in Italian) are set out in the national guidelines adopted under the State–Regions Agreement of 28 November 2019. Technicals Guideline supporting the implementation of these procedures is regularly published by ISPRA at national level and by some regional authorities, covering environmental monitoring protocols for wildlife (including birds of prey) in the context of EIA, SEA and VIncA procedures for infrastructure and energy projects.

Regarding sensitivity mapping, during the reporting period:
ISPRA developed national avian sensitivity maps for offshore wind energy development, covering Italian marine waters. The study was carried out by a multidisciplinary working group within ISPRA's Bird Migration Unit and Waterbird Ecology Unit, adapting the methodology defined by the European Commission (European Commission 2020. The Wildlife Sensitivity Mapping Manual: Practical guidance for renewable energy planning in the European Union), and was formally transmitted to the Ministry of Ecological Transition in December 2021 (Serra L., Andreotti A., Aradis A., Cecere J.G., Ferri A., Imperio S., Marcon A., Pirrello S., Raganella Pelliccioni E., Spina F., Baccetti N., Amadesi B., Gotti C., Melega L. & Zenatello M. 2021. Mappe di sensibilità dell'avifauna per l'eolico offshore. Unpublished technical report. ISPRA, Roma).

LIPU-BirdLife Italia, in collaboration with BirdLife International, developed a national avian sensitivity mapping framework for renewable energy development. The peer-reviewed methodology and results were published as: Biasotto L.D. et al. (2026). Mapping avian sensitivity to support onshore wind energy development and bird conservation in two European countries. Biological Conservation, 315, 111688. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2025.111688.The map is intended to support spatial planning and EIA procedures at national and regional levels (LIPU-BirdLife Italia (2024). Sensitivity Mapping for Renewable Energy in Italy; https://www.lipu.it/cosa-facciamo/proteggiamo-uccelli/eolico-mappe).

National IBA inventory update. The 2024 update of the national IBA inventory resulted in the designation of three new IBAs specifically for migratory raptors, covering bottleneck sites along the pre-Alpine arc, the Adriatic coast and the Calabrian Apennine isthmus, and in the substantial enlargement of three existing IBAs protecting key migration corridors along the Messina Strait.
The updated inventory further provides a georeferenced baseline of Important Bird Areas for migratory raptors used to inform EIA screening.
Gustin M., Celada C. & Ferrarini A. 2025. Aggiornamento al 2024 dell'Inventario delle IBA in Italia. Italia settentrionale. 2024 update of the IBA inventory in Italy. Northern Italy. Lipu. Pp. 356.
Gustin M., Celada C. & Ferrarini A. 2025. Aggiornamento al 2024 dell'Inventario delle IBA in Italia. Italia centrale. 2024 update of the IBA inventory in Italy. Central Italy. Lipu. Pp. 234.
Gustin M., Celada C. & Ferrarini A. 2025. Aggiornamento al 2024 dell'Inventario delle IBA in Italia. Italia meridionale. 2024 update of the IBA inventory in Italy. Southern Italy. Lipu. Pp. 195.
Gustin M., Celada C. & Ferrarini A. 2025. Aggiornamento al 2024 dell'Inventario delle IBA in Italia. Sicilia e Sardegna. 2024 update of the IBA inventory in Italy. Sicily and Sardinia. Lipu. Pp. 271.

Eleonora's Falcon
GPS-telemetry study of 25 Eleonora's Falcons from a colony in Sardinia identified an Important Conservation Area (ICA) of 8,099 km^2 and assessed potential collision risk with wind turbines (De Pascalis F., Zucca C., Nissardi S., Mellone U., Facoetti R., Serra L. & Cecere J.G., 2026 Bird Conservation International 36. DOI: 10.1017/S0959270925100312).

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:

In Italy, migratory raptor conservation is integrated into broader biodiversity, agriculture/forestry and energy policies, especially through the National Biodiversity Strategy 2030 and guidelines to reduce bird mortality from power lines

* 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 give a brief summary:

Italy implemented broader cross-government biodiversity and agricultural-policy programmes during the reporting period, notably through the National Biodiversity Strategy 2030 governance framework and CAP-related bird monitoring, which informed decision-makers on issues relevant to migratory raptors.

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:

Status: the 2021 Red List of Italian breeding birds* updated the extinction risk assessments for all breeding raptor species relative to the previous assessment (2012). Among MOU-relevant species, a genuine improvement in conservation status was recorded for the Griffon Vulture, downlisted from CR to NT, reflecting a documented improvement in its conservation status. The Lanner Falcon was uplisted from VU to EN (criterion A4b) due to a projected population decline.
*Gustin, M., Nardelli, R., Brichetti, P., Battistoni, A., Rondinini, C., Teofili, C. (comps.). 2021 Lista Rossa IUCN degli uccelli nidificanti in Italia 2021 Comitato Italiano IUCN e Ministero dell'Ambiente e della Tutela del Territorio e del Mare, Roma).

Trend: The most recent overall assessment of the trends of migratory bird of prey populations in Italy was carried out in the framework of the national reporting under Article 12 of the EU Birds Directive.

Increase. Positive trends were recorded for Bearded Vulture (Gypaetus barbatus, 22–24 pairs), Griffon Vulture (Gyps fulvus, 271–300 pairs), Red Kite (Milvus milvus, 425–515 pairs) and Red-footed Falcon (Falco vespertinus, 140–160 pairs), all showing increases in the short term.
Golden Eagle (622–724 pairs) and Short-toed Snake Eagle (1,000–2,000 pairs) are stable in the short term but show positive long-term trends.

Decrease (Negative Trends): Lanner Falcon (35–40 pairs) and Eleonora's Falcon (550–600 pairs), are both declining in short and long term, and Egyptian Vulture (12–14 pairs), stable in the short term but with a negative long-term trend.

Common Kestrel shows a significant short-term decline. Lesser Kestrel (5,100–7,000 pairs) remains fluctuating.

A significant monitoring gap persists for several migratory species including Black Kite, Western Marsh Harrier , Montagu's Harrier, Eurasian Hobby, European Honey Buzzard .

Please provide a copy of any relevant documents:

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

https://reportnet.europa.eu/public/dataflow/1438

* 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:

No national fully coordinated monitoring programme for raptors is currently operated; long-term monitoring is carried out independently by NGOs, protected areas, universities, regional and national institutions. Some examples of long-term monitoring programmes and projects include:
Bearded Vulture
A national synthesis of monitoring results for 2022–2025 is provided by Bassi et al. (2025), who compiled data from all Italian IBM monitoring areas.

Golden Eagle
Monitoring is carried out through heterogeneous regional programmes led by NGOs, universities and protected areas, with no fully coordinated national scheme. Coordination networks are emerging in parts of the Alps and Apennines. Between 2023 and 2025, ISPRA deployed GPS/GSM tags on 13 individuals within the framework of the Bonelli's Eagle reintroduction projects LIFE Aquila a-LIFE (LIFE16 NAT/ES/000235) and LIFE ABILAS (LIFE23 NAT/IT/101147372).
Griffon vulture
Northern eastern Italy Friuli Venezia Giulia – Riserva Naturale Regionale del Lago di Cornino (1987–ongoing): annual monitoring of the only Griffon Vulture breeding colony on the Alpine arc.
Northern western Italy – Piedmont: monitoring occurrence and movements across Piedmont protected areas is coordinated by the Centro di Referenza Regionale "Avvoltoi e Rapaci Alpini".
Central Apennines (Riserva Naturale Orientata Monte Velino, Abruzzo): long-term monitoring of the breeding population conducted by the Reparto Carabinieri Biodiversità di Castel di Sangro since the reintroduction programme in the 1990s and in collaboration with Rewilding Apennines ETS since 2021, including annual counts of breeding pairs and reproductive success. Monitoring activities intensified with Rewilding Apennines ETS, as part of a long-term project utilizing GPS tracking (76 devices deployed). Field inspections of feeding clusters were conducted (2,854 clusters checked from 2021 to 2025) to support trophic ecology studies and poisoning prevention.
Sicily (Parco Regionale delle Madonie): since 2023 monitoring of the Griffon Vulture reintroduction colony conducted by Ente Parco delle Madonie, NGO FIBIMED and Isnello Municipality. In April 2026, the first natural breeding event was documented. In June 2025, the first Egyptian Vulture breeding attracted by the supplementary feeding station established within the Griffon Vulture reintroduction programme bred again at Parco delle Madonie since the 1980s.
Sardinia: LIFE Safe for Vultures (LIFE19 NAT/IT/000732) includes systematic monitoring of the breeding population and GPS tracking of released individuals.
Cinereous Vulture: Records in north-western Italy are managed through ROAO (Rete Osservatori Alpi Occidentali), a volunteer observation network active since 1997, and consolidated in the Avvoltoi Piemonte bulletin.
Egyptian Vulture
Monitoring is coordinated through LIFE Egyptian Vulture and post-LIFE ISPRA activities. In Sicily, the NGO FIBIMED conducts island-wide surveys, documenting recent breeding presence and population status updates. Systematic monitoring continues across historically occupied areas.
Lanner Falcon
Monitoring surveys in southern Italy indicate a severe population decline in Regions as Puglia and Basilicata, from 10–15 pairs in the 1990s to 2–5 pairs in 2022–2023. Data derive from targeted monitoring by NGO ALTURA and LIPU.
Red Kite
Breeding monitoring is carried out locally by NGOs and protected areas. The LIFE MILVUS project is monitoring the reintroduced Aspromonte population. Wintering counts coordinated under LIFE EUROKITE (reference point for Italy NGO CERM) cover 17 regions.
Red-footed Falcon
The Bassa Parmense colony (Emilia-Romagna) is the main Italian breeding site and represents ~1% of the European population. Annual monitoring carried out by NGO LIPU Birdlife Italy includes nest checks, biometric sampling and ringing.
Osprey
Reintroduction in Maremma (since 2002) has led to progressive recolonisation of the Tyrrhenian coast. Monitoring includes GPS tracking, ringing and webcam surveillance, with 122 fledged individuals recorded overall.
Common Kestrel
The species is monitored within the Farmland Bird Index (FBI), providing long-term national trends based on standardized point counts since 2009.

Migration monitoring
The Project Migrans network (since 1991) coordinates ~12 observation sites across Italy, publishing biannual reports (infoMIGRANS). The Strait of Messina Observatory records 20,000–30,000 raptors per season, with added radar monitoring since 2026. LIPU conducts systematic spring migration counts and anti-poaching surveillance, while NGO StOrCal monitors Ionian migration at Punta Alice.
Ecotoxicological monitoring of lead contamination from hunting ammunition (2005–ongoing): An ongoing ecotoxicological monitoring programme is assessing lead exposure from hunting ammunition in four target species (Golden Eagle, Griffon Vulture, Bearded Vulture, Cinereous Vulture).

Please provide a copy of any relevant documents:

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

Bearded Vulture (Bassi et al. 2025 / infoGIPETO) https://www.areeprotettealpimarittime.it/ente-di-gestione-aree-protette-alpi-marittime/pubblicazioni/infogipeto

Golden Eagle
- ISPRA/LIFE ABILAS: https://www.isprambiente.gov.it/it/progetti/cartella-progetti-in-corso/biodiversita-1/life-abilas/news/sa-reina-uno-sguardo-sullaquila-reale-in-sardegna

Griffon Vulture
- Lago di Cornino, Friuli: https://www.riservacornino.it/progetti/
- Piedmont / Avvoltoi Piemonte bulletin: https://www.areeprotettealpimarittime.it/ente-di-gestione-aree-protette-alpi-marittime/pubblicazioni/avvoltoi-piemonte
- Monte Velino (EOCA): https://www.eocaconservation.org/projects/improving-the-circle-of-life-in-the-central-apennines-italy/
- Monte Velino (Rewilding Apennines): https://rewilding-apennines.com/wildlife-comeback-7/
- Monte Velino (reserve): https://rgpbio.it/riserva/monte-velino/
- Sicily, Madonie: www.fibimed.com
- Sardinia, LIFE Safe for Vultures: www.lifesafeforvultures.eu

Cinereous Vulture
Piedmont / Avvoltoi Piemonte bulletin: https://www.areeprotettealpimarittime.it/ente-di-gestione-aree-protette-alpi-marittime/pubblicazioni/avvoltoi-piemonte

Egyptian Vulture
- LIFE Egyptian Vulture: www.lifegyptianvulture.it
- Sicily census (UZI 2023 poster): https://www.uzionlus.it/82-congresso-uzi-2023/BOOK-ABSTRACT-congresso-uzi.pdf

Lanner Falcon (Sigismondi et al. 2023) https://zenodo.org/records/8316308

Red Kite
- LIFE MILVUS: www.lifemilvusproject.it
- CERM: www.associazionecerm.it
- LIFE EUROKITE: www.life-eurokite.eu

Lesser Kestrel
- LIFE FALKON: http://www.lifefalkon.eu/it/

Red-footed Falcon: www.lipu.it

Osprey: www.falcopescatore.it

Common Kestrel (Farmland Bird Index): https://www.reterurale.it/farmlandbirdindex

Migration monitoring
- infoMIGRANS / Project Migrans: https://www.areeprotettealpimarittime.it/ente-di-gestione-aree-protette-alpi-marittime/pubblicazioni/infomigrans
- Strait of Messina Observatory: www.straitobservatory.com
- LIPU anti-poaching project: https://www.lipu.it/news/rapaci-campo-antibracconaggio-sullo-stretto-messina
- PARC / StOrCal: www.stazioneornitologicacalabrese.com

Lead Monitoring
Bassi, E. 2025. Ammunition lead insidiously enters the food web of birds of prey. Abstract book, International Symposium "Lead, a Borderless Poison": effects of hunting lead ammunition on wild birds, environment and human health, Gorizia (IT), 17–18 October 2025, pp. 9–14. https://www.astorefvg.org/uploads/ABSTRACT_BOOK_GORIZIA_17OTTOBRE2025_DEF.pdf

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

- ( ) Yes
- (•) No
- ( ) Not known

* Please state why not:

No formal national protocol or guidelines have been published in Italy for systematic or coordinated monitoring of migratory birds of prey. Standardised methodologies are used by individual monitoring networks (Progetto Migrans, Strait of Messina Bird Observatory,etc) but no single nationally adopted protocol document exists.

* 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:

No formal process exists in Italy for multi-stakeholder agreement on research priorities for raptor conservation. At broader level, the National Biodiversity Strategy 2030 (D.M. n. 252/2023), implemented with the technical-scientific support of ISPRA, provides the general national framework for biodiversity conservation. Research and monitoring activities are carried out by individual institutions, NGOs and project partnerships on a project-by-project basis.

* 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 Ministry for the Environment and Energy Security (MASE), with the aim of providing technological support for the implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy, has adopted an innovative technical and technological infrastructure known as the National Biodiversity Network (NNB).
This is a shared data management system consisting of a central node, which enables search operations, and peripheral nodes made up of databases containing biodiversity data. It allows for the efficient consultation and integration of biodiversity information without the physical transfer of the data itself, which always remains with the cooperating entities that hold the legal rights to it.

Several platforms managed by NGOs, protected areas and research institutions are currently in operation in Italy and contribute to the exchange of knowledge, data and experience relevant to raptor monitoring and conservation, here some examples:

infoMIGRANS, the biannual bulletin of the Progetto Migrans network, published by the Ente di gestione delle Aree Protette delle Alpi Marittime, provides a dedicated open-access channel for the dissemination of raptor migration monitoring results from watchpoints across Italy (https://www.areeprotettealpimarittime.it/ente-di-gestione-aree-protette-alpi-marittime/pubblicazioni/infomigrans).

infoGIPETO, the annual bulletin on Bearded Vulture conservation in the Alps, co-edited by the Ente di gestione delle Aree Protette delle Alpi Marittime and Provincia di Sondrio, publishes monitoring results, demographic data and conservation updates from the Italian Alpine population as part of the international IBM network (https://www.areeprotettealpimarittime.it/ente-di-gestione-aree-protette-alpi-marittime/pubblicazioni/infogipeto; www.gyp-monitoring.com).

Avvoltoi Piemonte, the annual bulletin of the Centro di Referenza Regionale "Avvoltoi e Rapaci Alpini", co-edited by the Ente di gestione delle Aree Protette delle Alpi Marittime and the Ente di gestione delle Aree Protette delle Alpi Cozie, provides an open-access channel for the dissemination of monitoring results on vultures – primarily Bearded Vulture and Griffon Vulture– and other raptors occurring in Piedmont protected areas (https://www.areeprotettealpimarittime.it/ente-di-gestione-aree-protette-alpi-marittime/pubblicazioni/avvoltoi-piemonte).

CERM (Centro Rapaci Minacciati) maintains a dedicated website publishing information on Egyptian vulture and Red kite, captive breeding and release programmes (www.associazionecerm.it).

MEDRAPTORS operates as a platform for the exchange information on Mediterranean raptor species, particularly in relation to migration monitoring at key bottleneck sites (www.medraptors.org).

ALTURA (Associazione per la Tutela degli Uccelli Rapaci e dei loro Ambienti) maintains a dedicated website publishing monitoring results, conservation news and resources specifically focused on birds of prey in Italy, operated by a national network of raptor specialists and volunteers (www.altura-rapaci.org).

LIPU BirdLife Italia maintains a dedicated section on raptor conservation on its institutional website, covering

species accounts, conservation status, ongoing projects and citizen science initiatives (www.lipu.it).

Ornis Italica (www.ornisitalica.com) is a non-profit scientific association of biologists and natural scientists active in movement ecology, radar monitoring of bird migration and raptor conservation research, including long-term monitoring of urban Peregrine Falcon (Falco peregrinus) populations and kestrel nest box programmes on powerlines. Ornis Italica also operates Birdcam.it (www.birdcam.it)

Peregrine Falcon webcam - Grattacielo Pirelli, Milan. Since 2014, Regione Lombardia has operated a 24/7 live webcam on a Peregrine Falcon nest at 125 m height on the Pirelli skyscraper in Milan (https://eventi.regione.lombardia.it/it/grattacielo-pirelli/falchi-pellegrini)

Golden Eagle and Griffon webcam - Parco dei Nebrodi, Sicily. Since 2006, the Parco dei Nebrodi has operated a live nest camera on a Golden Eagle (Aquila chrysaetos) pair at the Rocche del Crasto, Alcara Li Fusi. The stream covers the full breeding cycle and is publicly accessible worldwide (https://www.parcodeinebrodi.it/gallery_webcam.php)

Osprey webcam - Parco Regionale della Maremma, Tuscany. The Parco Regionale della Maremma operates live nest cameras at the Osprey (Pandion haliaetus) breeding sites along the Tuscan coast, as part of the long-term reintroduction and monitoring programme. The stream covers the full breeding cycle and is publicly accessible worldwide. (https://www.falcopescatore.it/webcam-online/)

The websites of EU LIFE projects active during the reporting period served as project-specific dissemination channels for results, conservation measures and data, accessible to practitioners, NGOs and the general public throughout the reporting period.

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:

Public awareness activities on birds of prey conservation were carried out throughout the reporting period, primarily through EU LIFE-funded projects and NGOs initiatives.
All LIFE projects active during the reporting period (LIFE Safe for Vultures, LIFE Milvus, LIFE Lanner, LIFE Falkon and LIFE Egyptian Vulture) implemented mandatory communication and awareness components, including project websites, social media channels, public events, press releases.

International awareness days - International Vulture Awareness Day and World Migratory Bird Day - were celebrated by NGOs, nature reserves, national and regional parks, and zoological facilities across Italy.

Lead poisoning from hunting ammunition was the subject of a sustained programme of public awareness events during the reporting period.
The travelling exhibition "Il veleno dopo lo sparo / The Poison After the Shot" toured five Italian venue: Bergamo (2023; https://www.musei.regione.lombardia.it/wps/portal/site/musei-riconosciuti-in-lombardia/dettaglio-evento/eventi-e-novita/bgbs2023-bg-museo-enrico-caffi-il-veleno-dopo-lo-sparo); Brescia (February 2024); Cremona (February–March 2025; https://www.comune.cremona.it/novita/comunicati/15-febbraio-al-29-marzo-mostra-veleno-dopo-sparo);Venzone/Udine (October 2025; https://www.parchialpicozie.it/it/news/2025/10/22/piombo-veleno-senza-frontiere/);
Milan (28 November 2025 – 1 March 2026) with public lectures, technical workshops and school activities at each venue;
Key events included the international conference "Piombo, veleno senza frontiere" in Gorizia (17 October 2025; https://www.astorefvg.org/news/117/33/PIOMBO-VELENO-SENZA-FRONTIERE-LEAD-A-BORDERLESS-POISON.html; and the public conference "Piombo, nemico invisibile" at Palazzo Reale in Milan (5 March 2026; http://www.altura-rapaci.org/convegno-pubblico-piombo-nemico-invisibile).

* 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:

Education and awareness activities specifically targeting young people and students were carried out during the reporting period primarily through EU LIFE-funded projects, implemented by NGOs. These included for example structured school programmes on raptor ecology and conservation reaching several thousand students across Italy, (e.g.: www.lifegyptianvulture.it;www.lifefalkon.eu).
Since 2021, Ngo Rewilding Apennines has delivered annual training courses on vulture biology and monitoring for volunteers active in the Central Apennines, with approximately 70 participants involved each year (Rewilding Apennines, N. Borgianni comm.pers. 2026).

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 give a brief summary:

In the reporting time, approximately 200 Carabinieri Forestali, of whom one third were Officers commanding Environmental and Forestry Investigative Units (NIPAF) and CITES Carabinieri Units, have been trained in investigative policing techniques applied to Wildlife Crime. From 2023 onwards, annual training courses for judges and public prosecutors have been delivered on offences against wild fauna (Italy, RSP IKB Mid-Term Review, 2026).

* 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:

Training and other support initiatives for local communities and voluntary groups were implemented throughout the reporting period in the framework of the EU LIFE Project, Ngo initiatives.

* 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 why not:

No single national funding line is created exclusively for migratory birds of prey; the conservation actions can benefit from funds for protected areas and Natura 2000.

* 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:

Financial resources were received from the LIFE Programme of the European Union through the following co-funded projects: LIFE Egyptian Vulture (LIFE16 NAT/IT/000659), LIFE Falkon (LIFE17 NAT/IT/000586), LIFE Safe for Vultures (LIFE19 NAT/IT/000732), LIFE Milvus (LIFE18 NAT/IT/000917), LIFE Lanner (LIFE18 NAT /IT/000720), LIFE Aquila a-LIFE (LIFE16 NAT/ES/000235), LIFE ABILAS (LIFE23 NAT/IT/101147372), LIFE IP GESTIRE 2020 (LIFE14 IPE/IT/018), LIFE IMAGINE UMBRIA (LIFE19 IPE/IT/000015).

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:

Several EU LIFE co-funded projects involving multinational partnerships with other Range States provided the primary framework for international cooperation during the reporting period.
ISPRA contributed to an international multi-country study on GPS-confirmed mortality of large migratory birds along the African-Eurasian flyway (Serratosa et al., 2024.Tracking data highlight the importance of human-induced mortality for large migratory birds at a flyway scale" Biological Conservation 293 (2024): 110525).

* 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

Contact

alexandra.caron-strehlow@un.org