



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:

Slovakia

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

None

Report Compiler

* Name and title:

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* Full name of institution:

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Designated Contact Point for the MOU

(if different from Report Compiler)

Name and title of designated Contact Point:

Full name of institution:

Mailing address:

Telephone:

Email:

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)

Measures against bird mortality along powerlines, in collaboration with electricity distribution companies and the grid operator in Slovakia. EU-funded projects for habitat restoration, site management and species-specific measures. Regular monitoring of the breeding and wintering raptor populations is being conducted in Slovakia. Regular meetings and conferences of birds-of-prey experts also take place. A yearbook focused specifically on the conservation, monitoring, and research of birds of prey (Raptor Journal) is also published regularly.

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

Slow progress in retrofitting dangerous sections of power lines, despite some successes, and innovations. Habitat loss and degradation due to climate change and all kinds of human activities, including agriculture, forestry, water management and infrastructure development. Invasive alien species causing habitat degradation; area of targeted illegal poisoning (and even shooting) of predators.

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

The main objectives are the implementation of the EU Nature Restoration Regulation, focusing on measures to achieve or maintain a favourable conservation status for all species of European importance, including birds of prey and owls.

It is necessary to continue the fight against the illegal killing of birds of prey. Implement measures to protect nesting sites. A priority is also to continue with technical modifications to power lines in cooperation with distribution companies and the transmission system operator.

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

Provide a copy of the document(s) concerned:

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

https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1495/20221005015748mp_/https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/docs/Raptor_conservationreport.pdf

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

- ☐ Yes
☒ Partly
☐ No

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

The EU document on a strategic approach to the protection of birds of prey may address measures at EU level, while some measures can in practice be implemented at national level.

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:

Act No. 543/2002 Coll. on Nature and Landscape Protection as amended by later acts. Order of the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic No. 170/2021 Coll. by which is executed the Act No. 543/2002 Coll. According to the Order of the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic lists all species of raptor and owl that occur in Slovakia as protected.

According to § 35 Protected animal

(1) It is prohibited to

- a) intentionally capture a protected animal in its natural range,
- b) intentionally injure or kill a protected animal in its natural range,
- c) intentionally disturb a protected animal in its natural range, particularly during periods of nesting, reproduction, rearing of young, hibernation, or migration,
- d) crossbreed a protected animal with another species, or to possess such hybrids,
- e) keep, rear in human care, transport, sell, exchange, or offer for sale or exchange a protected animal.

(2) It is prohibited to

- a) locate or intentionally damage the eggs of a protected animal in its natural range in the wild, or to possess them, including empty eggshells,
- b) remove, intentionally damage, or destroy the nests of a protected animal in its natural range,
- c) damage or destroy the breeding sites or resting places of a protected animal in its natural range.

* 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:

Legislation governing the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development stipulates that pesticides and rodenticides may only be used in accordance with the conditions specified in their authorization. Similarly, hunting regulations do not permit the poisoning of predators. The Criminal Code also addresses the misuse of toxic substances, imposing penalties under the chapters concerning crimes against natural assets and animal cruelty.

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 list the species involved and the status of each Plan:

The species action plan for *Falco vespertinus* was updated in 2024.

Provide a copy of the document(s) concerned:

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

<https://www.minzp.sk/files/sekcia-ochranyprirodyakrajiny/druhova-ochrana-prirody/programy-zachrany/pz-sokola-web-mzp.pdf>

* 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:

In Slovakia, we have focused primarily on implementing conservation measures—such as habitat protection, the provision of nesting opportunities, combating poisoning, and the modification of power lines. Recently, there has been no need for reintroduction or translocation projects for any bird of prey species; the aforementioned measures are considered more important.

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

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☒ Not known

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.

Activities involving, for example, habitat restoration are being implemented in Slovakia; these habitats are also utilized by migratory birds of prey and owls.
Habitat restoration measures include the restoration of wetlands and grasslands, the elimination of invasive non-native species, etc.

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

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

Slovakia's national report under Article 12 of the EU Birds Directive for the 2019–2024 period, submitted to the European Commission, outlines the most significant current pressures and future threats, as well as measures concerning all bird species for which Natura 2000 sites have been designated (including most species of birds of prey and owls).

* 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](#).

Active cooperation with electricity distribution companies is underway in Slovakia to reduce the risk of electrocution. State authorities take the interests of bird-of-prey conservation into account to the extent possible. The aim of the EU Nature Restoration Regulation is to reverse the trend of habitat degradation and support nesting opportunities for selected species of birds of prey.

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

GUIDANCE:

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

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

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

- ☒ Yes
☐ No
☐ Not known

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

Under EU legislation, environmental impact assessment is mandatory for all large-scale projects (and Strategic Environmental Assessment—SEA—is mandatory for plans). Environmental impact assessment is also required for smaller projects, particularly those located within Natura 2000 sites.

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:

As for energy, transport, waste and tourism see the replies about EIAs and SEAs, the main tools for policy integration

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

- ☐ Yes
☒ No

☐ Not known

* Please state why not:

Lack of capacity and financy

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:

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

Please provide a copy of any relevant documents:

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

<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:

State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic and national park administrations, in cooperation with the organizations Raptor Protection of Slovakia and BirdLife Slovakia, annually monitor the breeding populations and reproductive success of key raptor and owl species. The results are published, among other places, in the *Raptor Journal*, which is also available online. Nationwide monitoring of raptors and owls at permanent monitoring sites across Slovakia is also conducted.

Please provide a copy of any relevant documents:

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

Link to standardized methodologies:

<https://www.biomonitoring.sk/monitoring/monitoringmethodology/index>

Link to monitoring results: <https://www.biomonitoring.sk/>

* 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:

Since 2018, systematic monitoring of birds of prey and owls has been in place in Slovakia, covering all species. The monitoring is conducted repeatedly based on standardized methodologies at permanent monitoring sites at regular intervals. Each year, numerous experts are involved in data collection and analysis.

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

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

Link to standardized methodologies:

<https://www.biomonitoring.sk/monitoring/monitoringmethodology/index>

Link to monitoring results: <https://www.biomonitoring.sk/>

* 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:

Raptors experts have regular meetings, where, research topics are also discussed.

* 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:

Meetings or conferences focused on information exchange are held, and various professional and scientific publications summarize the results of research and monitoring of birds of prey.

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:

Monitoring of birds of prey at permanent monitoring sites (see the link in the previous chapter on monitoring). Meetings, conferences, and workshops for raptor conservation experts. Jornal Raptor publication

- * 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:

SNC organizes regular training to inform interested citizens about raptor conservation, covering species identification, research, habitat management issues, etc.

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:

Meetings are held to discuss measures to prevent bird mortality on power lines, including dedicated annual meetings involving representatives of electricity distribution companies and the grid operator that also address innovative solutions for making power lines more eco-friendly. Meetings also take place regarding environmental crime, focusing—among other issues—on the illegal killing of birds of prey.

* 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:

SNC of the Slovak republic occasionally organises a course on raptor conservation covering species identification, rescue of injured specimens, site management and monitoring issues.

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

GUIDANCE:

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

- ☒ Yes
☐ No
☐ Not known

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

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

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

GUIDANCE:

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

- ☒ Yes
☐ No
☐ Not known

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

EU funding for various projects, i whose major focus was on raptor conservation, but also site management and habitat restoration projects

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 state why not:

Consultancy cooperation aimed at helping to save the overwintering and migrating population of *Falco vespertinus*.

* 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:

Most countries Slovakia is in contact with on raptor conservation are EU Members and thus signatories to the Raptors MoU

Contact

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