

Pernis apivorus -- (Linnaeus, 1758)

ANIMALIA -- CHORDATA -- AVES -- ACCIPITRIFORMES -- ACCIPITRIDAE

Common names: European Honey-buzzard; Bondrée apivore; European Honey Buzzard; Honey Buzzard

European Red List Assessment

European Red List Status

LC -- Least Concern, (IUCN version 3.1)

Assessment Information

Year published:	2015
Date assessed:	2015-03-31
Assessor(s):	BirdLife International
Reviewer(s):	Symes, A.
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Assessment Rationale

European regional assessment: Least Concern (LC)

EU27 regional assessment: Least Concern (LC)

In Europe this species has an extremely large range, and hence does not approach the thresholds for Vulnerable under the range size criterion (Extent of Occurrence 10% in ten years or three generations, or with a specified population structure). Despite the fact that the population trend appears to be decreasing, the decline is not believed to be sufficiently rapid to approach the thresholds for Vulnerable under the population trend criterion (30% decline over ten years or three generations). For these reasons the species is evaluated as Least Concern in Europe.

Within the EU27 this species has an extremely large range, and hence does not approach the thresholds for Vulnerable under the range size criterion (Extent of Occurrence 10% in ten years or three generations, or with a specified population structure). The population trend appears to be stable, and hence the species does not approach the thresholds for Vulnerable under the population trend criterion (30% decline over ten years or three generations). For these reasons the species is evaluated as Least Concern in the EU27.

Occurrence

Countries/Territories of Occurrence

Native:

Albania; Andorra; Armenia; Austria; Azerbaijan; Belarus; Belgium; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Bulgaria; Croatia; Cyprus; Czech Republic; Denmark; Estonia; Finland; France; Georgia; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Italy; Latvia; Liechtenstein; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of; Malta; Moldova; Montenegro; Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Portugal; Romania; Russian Federation; Serbia; Slovakia; Slovenia; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; Turkey; Ukraine; United Kingdom; Gibraltar (to UK)

Vagrant:

Faroe Islands (to DK); Iceland; Ireland, Rep. of; Canary Is. (to ES)

Population

The European population is estimated at 118,000-171,000 pairs, which equates to 235,000-342,000 mature individuals. The population in the EU27 is estimated at 44,000-71,100 pairs, which equates to 88,100-142,000 mature individuals. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

Trend

In Europe the population size is estimated to be decreasing by less than 25% in 35.4 years (three generations). In the EU27 the population size is estimated to be stable. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

Habitats and Ecology

This is a migratory species, wintering in in tropical Africa. It leaves its breeding grounds in August and September, returning between April and June (Orta *et al.* 2013). Birds are mostly solitary except on migration, when they flock throughout, gathering in large numbers at preferred crossing points as well as

roosting socially (Ferguson-Lees and Christie 2001, Porter and Aspinall 2010, Orta *et al.* 2013). They fly chiefly by soaring, although are able to cross wide stretches of water with flapping flight (Snow and Perrins 1998, Ferguson-Lees and Christie 2001). The species is diurnal (Snow and Perrins 1998). It is found in forests and woods, preferably deciduous, but also mixed forests in temperate and boreal zones. It also uses a variety of habitats with both wooded and open areas, including heathland and cultivated area. It feeds mainly on wasps and hornets. Nests are built in woods, preferentially in deciduous trees. Typically lays two eggs (Orta *et al.* 2013).

Habitats & Altitude			
Habitat (level 1 - level 2)		Importance	Occurrence
Artificial/Terrestrial - Arable Land		major	breeding
Forest - Boreal		major	breeding
Forest - Temperate		major	breeding
Altitude	0-2000 m	Occasional altitudinal limits	

Threats

Many birds are shot on migration, notably in Italy, Malta and Lebanon (Ferguson-Lees and Christie 2001, Orta *et al.* 2013). Population declines in northern Europe have resulted from deforestation, forest conversion and shooting. Human disturbance is also a threat. Pesticide use has not had significant impacts in Europe (due to the species living in woodland and feeding on wasps). It is very highly vulnerable to the effects of potential wind energy development (Strix 2012).

Threats & Impacts					
Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses			
Agriculture & aquaculture	Agro-industry plantations	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem conversion			
Biological resource use	Hunting & trapping terrestrial animals (persecution/control)	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			
Biological resource use	Logging & wood harvesting (unintentional effects: (large scale) [harvest])	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem conversion			
Energy production & mining	Renewable energy	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Unknown	Unknown
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem degradation; Species mortality			
Human intrusions & disturbance	Recreational activities	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Species disturbance			
Pollution	Herbicides and pesticides	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Negligible declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Indirect ecosystem effects			

Conservation

Conservation Actions Underway

EU Birds Directive Annex I. CITES Appendix II. CMS Appendix II. In Armenia, it is protected in preserves (Adamian and Klem 1999). It is listed as 'vulnerable' in Croatia (Radović *et al.* 2003) and 'near threatened' in Turkey (Kirwan *et al.* 2008) and is listed in the Red Data Books of the city of Moscow and the Moscow region (Kalyakin and Voltzit 2006).

Conservation Actions Proposed

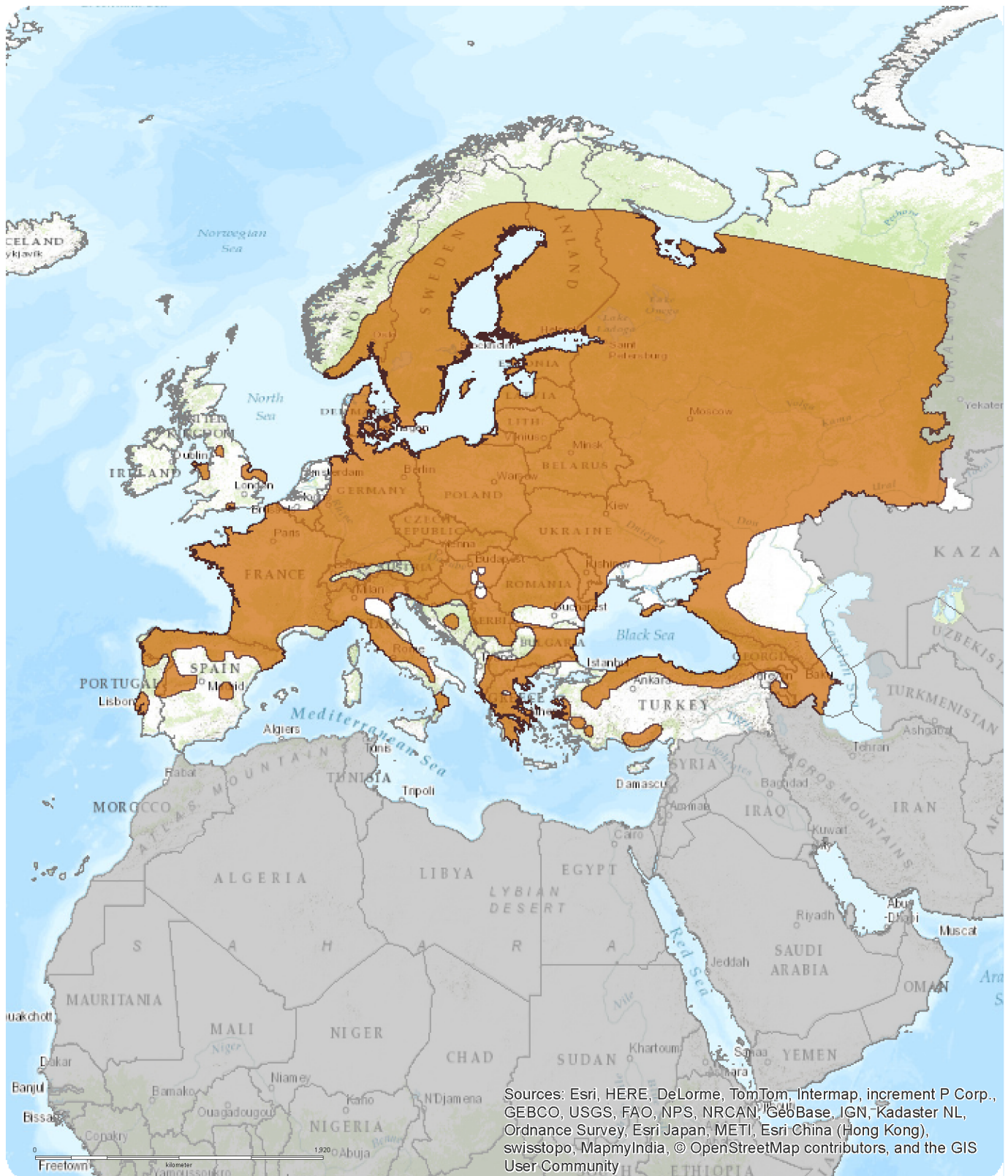
Illegal hunting should be prevented and low-intensity agriculture and forestry promoted. Disturbance during the breeding season should be minimised.

Bibliography

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Map (see overleaf)

European Regional Assessment



Pernis apivorus

Range

■ Extant (breeding)

Citation:
BirdLife International (2015)
European Red List of Birds



Map created 05/12/2015

