

African Raptor Databank

POLICY FOR USE OF OBSERVATION DATA

& SAFEGUARDS FOR SENSITIVE OR CONFIDENTIAL OBSERVATIONS

Recorders retain ownership of their data but grant those involved in the running of the ARDB the right to use their information to build a database of knowledge of African raptors. This relationship will be based on the understanding that the ARDB is developed for the purpose of protecting raptor populations in Africa and their habitats.

Contributing recorders can access their own recent records by backing-up to csv format on sd cards on their devices which may be shared by email to other users. They can also request their entire data holdings from the main ARDB database and web tools will be put in place to facilitate these exports.

Each request for data collected by others will be assessed to provide protection to sensitive features (below). Users of ARDB data must provide acknowledgement to 'African Raptor Databank'. Co-authorship on any publications must be offered to the data owners (recorders) when their records make up more than 10% of data contributions to the article. The ARDB will take steps to put data validation and verification measures in place, but the ARDB will not be held responsible for inaccuracies not captured by these measures.

The ARDB will strive to maintain an open-door policy with other similar data gathering exercises in Africa e.g. bird atlases, G-bird, iSpot, as long as the purpose of these exercises is related to bird conservation. We aim to negotiate data exchange mechanisms which will synchronise ARDB data with these other schemes so there may be information flow both ways.

Users of the ARDB have access to all of the information that they submit but they may only view those observations of other users that are not considered to be sensitive.

In consultation with regional experts, observations of species or behaviours that are considered sensitive will be protected from public view both in the database and also in any data exchange mechanisms with recorders or with schemes. Current restrictions protect nest observations and vulture data. Sensitive data will not be released unless similar protection of these data is agreed, alternately downgrading of the spatial resolution may be carried out for certain data release. Users agree to the ARDB making these judgements on data releases for all data that is not marked confidential.

Any other observation data which you do not wish the ARDB to release to other similar *bona fide* projects may be marked as confidential by you before upload. These data will be held by the ARDB and used for internal analysis, but not released to third parties or public view.

POLICY FOR CHARGES

The ARDB is managed by Habitat INFO Limited, company number 04488884, whose registered office is at Elfed House, Oak Tree Court, Cardiff Gate Business Park, Cardiff CF23 8RS, United Kingdom which is a commercial company. However, the project is handled as non-commercial with various participating charities and education institutes and a lot of volunteer effort coming in from individuals and from personnel at Habitat INFO. The ARDB may make applications to funding bodies to seek funds for the development of technologies, for data analysis, for publication expenses, and also for project management expenses. The ARDB is best described as a 'citizen science' project and any funding received to the project is ring-fenced in a savings account for the project and used entirely for the development and running of the ARDB and for the ultimate purpose of conserving African raptors.

Data will be freely shared across regional offices and with education institutes but to make the database sustainable Habitat Info will make charges for time spent servicing data requests to commercial operators. This revenue will be accounted for publicly, ring-fenced and used only on ARDB development.

The following users will normally be exempt from charges (although Habitat Info reserves the right to make charges in the event of requests that would take a large amount of staff time):

- School and University Students.
- Local natural history societies or groups.
- Members of the public.