



## Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors MoU)

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### **CMS COP10: OUTCOMES RELEVANT TO THE RAPTORS MOU**

*Prepared by the UNEP/CMS Secretariat*

1. The 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP10) to CMS took place on 20-25 November 2011 at Bergen, Norway. Important decisions are reflected in the 29 Resolutions adopted by the Conference. This document outlines the key outcomes from COP10 of relevance to the Raptors MoU.

#### **The Role of Ecological Networks in the Conservation of Migratory Species - Resolution 10.3**

2. The COP recognized the importance of a network approach in the implementation of existing CMS instruments and initiatives. Parties asked the CMS Secretariat and the Scientific Council to identify, within the CMS Family of instruments, the current and potential future use of ecological network concepts and approaches and to conduct a strategic review to assess how major protected area systems and initiatives aimed at promoting ecological networks address the needs of migratory species. The CMS Secretariat is in the process of compiling existing information and case studies and at the same time is actively undertaking to raise funds to assist with further work, e.g. research potential new sources of information; analyse the data collected; identify gaps in knowledge and provide advice and guidance on next steps.

#### **CMS Strategic Plan 2015–2023 - Resolution 10.5**

3. One of the major COP decisions concerned the establishment of an intersessional Working Group (WG) to develop the future CMS Strategic Plan 2015-2023. The WG met on 5-6 November 2012 to review the preliminary findings of the process. The whole CMS Family, including the Raptors MoU through its Coordinating Unit, will be invited to provide their views to ensure that the Strategic Plan is aligned with the mandate of each individual instrument.

#### **Capacity Building Strategy (2012-2014) - Resolution 10.6**

4. The Resolution emphasizes the importance of increased cooperation within the CMS Family with a view to developing tools that would strengthen the capacity of Parties and Signatories to CMS instruments. Earlier this year, the European Commission<sup>1</sup> sponsored the project titled '*Effective Implementation of CMS Family Instruments across Various Regions & Languages through Capacity Building*' for the period 2012–2014. This project focusses on supporting African countries through result-based capacity building and strengthening activities to implement CMS and its instruments, such as the Raptors MoU. Currently, steps are being taken to develop a manual and an interactive e-learning tool for both the National Focal Points and Contact Points for the CMS instruments. These tools will build upon the Guidance document issued to National Contact Points (NCPs) to the Raptors MoU in June 2012 (see CMS/Raptors/MoS1/Doc.9/Annex II).

<sup>1</sup> Funds came from the '*The Thematic Programme for Environment and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources including Energy (ENRTP) Strategic Cooperation Agreement (SCA) between the European Commission - DG Environment and UNEP*'.

## **Outreach and Communication Issues - Resolution 10.7**

### ***Web-based database and new CMS Family website***

5. This Resolution recognizes the need to modernize and streamline the Convention's information sharing capacity. One of the activities foreseen is the development of a new CMS Family website. The first step has been taken by contracting a Consultant to build the database which will form the foundation for the new Website. This is major undertaking but will provide a platform for all of the CMS Family instruments to utilise in the future.

### ***Online Reporting System***

6. An Online Reporting System (ORS) has been developed by UNEP-WCMC in close collaboration with the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) to streamline the national reporting process, make it more efficient for the countries and to provide the basis for easier analysis of datasets. The ORS was successfully tested for the AEWA reporting cycle to its 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Parties in May 2012. Anticipating the potential future use of the system by CMS and its instruments, the ORS has been designed as a tool for the whole CMS Family.

## **Guidance on Global Flyway Conservation & Options for Policy Arrangements – Res. 10.10**

7. This Resolution considers options for future policy arrangements and defines priority actions, including a request to make rapid progress on the Action Plan already included in the Raptors MoU, as well as to ensure the continued activity of the single species MoUs.

## **Power Lines and Migratory Birds - Resolution 10.11**

8. CMS Parties welcomed the '*Review of the Conflict between Migratory Birds and Electricity Power Grids in the African-Eurasian Region*' (UNEP/CMS/Conf.10.29.Rev.2)<sup>2</sup> and noted with concern that within the region tens of millions of migratory birds are killed annually as a result of electrocution and collision, and that many of these birds are internationally protected, including under CMS and covered by the CMS Raptors MoU. Furthermore, Parties welcomed the mitigation Guidelines (see CMS/Raptors/MoS1/Inf.11.2) and instructed the Secretariat, in close cooperation with relevant CMS agreements, to update the Guidelines regularly, as appropriate, and to disseminate them widely. The ICU of the Raptors MoU has commissioned and funded the production of unofficial courtesy translations into Arabic and Russian of Resolution 10.11 and the mitigation Guidelines.

## **Standardized Nomenclature of Birds Listed in the CMS Appendices - Resolution 10.13**

9. The COP reviewed tabled proposals and tasked the Chair of the Scientific Council to liaise with the scientific advisory bodies of the other biodiversity-related Conventions, and relevant organizations, to explore the possibility of adopting a single nomenclature and taxonomic reference for birds, including raptors, and to make recommendations to COP11 in 2014.

## **Guidelines on the Integration of Migratory Species into NBSAPs – Resolution 10.18**

10. The COP acknowledged the importance of integrating measures to conserve migratory species into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and during implementation of national biodiversity targets. The Resolution requests Parties to make use of the relevant Guidelines (UNEP/CMS/Conf.10.27<sup>3</sup>) which should also assist Signatories to the Raptors MoU in aligning their National or Regional Raptor Strategies with NBSAPs.

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<sup>2</sup> [http://www.cms.int/bodies/COP/cop10/docs\\_and\\_inf\\_docs/doc\\_29\\_electro\\_review\\_e.pdf](http://www.cms.int/bodies/COP/cop10/docs_and_inf_docs/doc_29_electro_review_e.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.cms.int/bodies/COP/cop10/docs\\_and\\_inf\\_docs/doc\\_27\\_guidelines\\_nbsap\\_e.pdf](http://www.cms.int/bodies/COP/cop10/docs_and_inf_docs/doc_27_guidelines_nbsap_e.pdf)

## **Migratory Species Conservation in the Light of Climate Change - Resolution 10.19**

11. There was also recognition at COP10 of the increasing need for Parties and Signatories to CMS instruments to, for instance, promote timely conservation measures where migration patterns have changed due to climate change, develop and implement monitoring regimes for transboundary range shifts and analyse the impact of climate change on migratory species.

## **Wildlife Disease and Migratory Species – Resolution 10.22**

12. The COP extended the CMS mandate on wildlife diseases by changing the name of the ad hoc Scientific Task Force to ‘Scientific Task Force on Wildlife and Ecosystem Health’, to reflect more comprehensively the ‘One Health’ approach to integrating wildlife, livestock, human and ecosystem health issues. The Resolution requests the Task Force to liaise with relevant organizations with a view to coordinating recommendations and on-going global initiatives in the field of global wildlife disease surveillance, early detection, including outbreaks of domestic livestock disease with the potential to affect wildlife. The CMS Secretariat is tasked to disseminate the findings and products of the Task Force’s work.

## **Minimizing the Risk of Poisoning to Migratory Birds - Resolution 10.26**

13. As mandated by this Resolution, the CMS Secretariat has established a Working Group (WG) on combating poisoning of migratory birds. The WG is tasked with undertaking a detailed assessment of the problem and to recommend suitable responses to CMS COP11. The Interim Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MoU is fully engaged with this WG and has contributed funds to support its operation (see CMS/Raptors/MoS1/Doc.11).

## **Saker falcon - Resolution 10.28**

14. Resolution 10.28 lists the Saker Falcon (*Falco cherrug*) in CMS Appendix I, excluding the population in Mongolia, and provides for the establishment of an immediate Concerted Action supported by all Parties. It also calls for the establishment of a Saker Falcon Task Force (STF) under the auspices of the Interim Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MoU. The Resolution states also that the Parties agree to provide financial and other resources to the operation of the Task Force and to the implementation of the Concerted Action in cooperation with the Signatories of the Raptors MoU, Range States and other interested parties. The Task Force was instructed to meet in the first quarter of 2012 to identify priority actions and to begin implementation of the Resolution immediately.

## **Future Structure and Strategies of CMS and CMS Family - Resolution 10.9**

This Resolution lists a set of activities according to priorities assigned by the Parties:

- Alignment with international environmental governance reform.
- Improved partnership working, which foresees closer collaboration with other MEAs, IGOs, NGOs and the private sector.
- Enhancing scientific research and information, e.g. in connection with the development of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).
- Enhancing communication and seeking opportunities to develop awareness of CMS and CMS Family, e.g. through a redesign of the website.
- Carry out a global gap analysis at the Convention level and to assess resources appropriateness.
- Coordinated strategic plans for the CMS Family.
- Restructuring of the Scientific Council to maximize expertise and knowledge capacity.
- Identifying opportunities for cooperation and coordination at the local and regional level through the creation of synergies based on geography, to be achieved by means of greater regional presence through coordinators with assistance from UNEP, NGOs, Parties and MEAs
- Harmonization and interoperability of information management and reporting systems where appropriate and applicable for the CMS Family.
- Strengthening the coordination and servicing of MoUs, by ensuring appropriate staffing levels of

the CMS Agreements Unit.

- Seek opportunities to coordinate meetings between institutions, working groups and across the CMS Family instruments.
- Actions to prioritize the growth of CMS and the CMS Family.
- Seeking opportunities to expand and develop capacity-building across the CMS Family, e.g. by CMS providing centralized related services.
- Seeking opportunities to expand and enhance fundraising activities, by coordinating with partners and stakeholders.
- Enhanced collaboration between CMS agreements, by (a) cooperation and coordination between agreement programmes and projects based on species clustering, thematic issues or geography as appropriate, and (b) if appropriate, cooperation and coordination between agreement Secretariats e.g. based on species clustering or on geography.
- Monitoring of implementation.

15. For each of these activities, the Resolution specifies short-term and medium to long-term actions to be taken. Short-term actions are to be addressed in the period 2012–2014 and will be funded from the core CMS budget, voluntary contributions from Parties, or donations from sponsors.

16. Many of these activities concern current actions in which the CMS Secretariat, CMS Agreements and MoUs and partner organizations have already invested considerable effort. CMS Parties effectively confirmed that these efforts are in line with their priorities, and provided guidance as to the next steps to be taken.

17. An overview of progress made by the CMS Secretariat in the implementation of this Resolution was presented to the 40<sup>th</sup> CMS Standing Committee Meeting in November 2012 (UNEP/CMS/StC40/13). MoU Secretariats or Coordinating Units will be requested to provide input to similar reports to be presented to future meetings.

### **Action requested**

Given that many of the prioritized activities concern not only CMS but the entire CMS Family, including Signatories to the Raptors MoU, the Meeting is invited to take note of the provisions included in the CMS Resolutions and to engage with their implementation as appropriate.