



Memorandum of Understanding
on the Conservation of
Migratory Birds of Prey in
Africa and Eurasia

Distribution: General
UNEP/CMS/Raptors/TAG2/4

10 March 2015

Second Meeting of the Technical Advisory Group | Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 16-19 March 2015

Review of Actions from the First Meeting of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG)

Prepared by the Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MoU

Here follows a summary of the Actions that emerged from the First Meeting of TAG, held at Edinburgh, Scotland in January 2014, including an assessment of the status of the task as at 1 March 2015.

Action TAG1-1: In the future, to consider the possibility of establishing an alliance of 'Friends of the Raptors MoU' with the aim of enabling interested groups to engage with the MoU and contribute to its work.

- Ongoing – Innovative idea but no capacity to pursue in current intercessional period. Capture task for the future in Activity 7: Emerging Issues and Horizon Scanning.

Action TAG1-2: To adopt a pro-forma Task Tracking Document template as a means of organising and planning for TAG tasks, and to identify Working Groups and a Lead member for each task.

- Completed – TTDs adopted and Working Group leads identified for each key task.

Action TAG1-3: Taxonomic issues: (a) To defer further consideration of the taxonomic issue until consideration at CMS COP11; (b) Post COP11, to re-assess implications of the wider taxonomy issue for the specific MoU listings; and, (c) To generally minimise TAG work on taxonomic issues as one where the direct conservation benefits are limited.

- Ongoing – Resolution 11.19 adopted at CMS COP11 establishing new CMS reference source for taxonomy and nomenclature. Implications to be considered by Activity 1 Working Group for presentation at TAG2.

Action TAG1-4: To develop a revised List of Key Sites included in the Action Plan annexed to the Raptors MoU and for the Coordinating Unit to circulate this to Signatories for review.

- Ongoing – BirdLife International contracted to lead on this task and to report progress at TAG2.

Action TAG1-5: To establish a sub-group led by the representative of BirdLife International to collate evidence of the migratory status of African Vultures to consider the potential listing of the relevant species within the MoU (and CMS) Appendices.

- Ongoing – BirdLife International contracted to lead on this task and to report progress at TAG2.

Action TAG1-6: To develop a TAG WorkPlan, taking into account some of the aspects proposed by a representative from BirdLife International.

- Partially Actioned – Outline WorkPlan drafted but not circulated due to delays in submission from Working Groups of updated TTDs. TAG WorkPlan for 2015 is an expected outcome of the TAG2.

Action TAG1-7: To await the outcome of deliberations of the Saker Falcon Task Force before deciding whether or not any additional guidance on species reintroduction is required.

- Ongoing – Saker Falcon Global Action Plan (SakerGAP) and Resolution 11.18 adopted at CMS COP11. No additional guidance needed but TAG could perhaps usefully review the Decision Tree for release of captive Saker Falcons being produced by International Association for Falconry (IAF) for linking to the Saker Falcon Online Information Portal?

Action TAG1-8: The Coordinating Unit to ask the Lead of the ‘Improvement of Protection’ Working Group [Vicky Jones] to include listing of data relevant to threats for raptors in her groups activities.

- Completed – Task included in contract with BirdLife International. Progress report to be presented at TAG2.

Action TAG1-9: The Coordinating Unit to post on the Raptors MoU WorkSpace the CMS ‘Guidelines for Mitigating the Conflict between Migratory Birds and Electricity Power Grids’ and the CMS Res.10.11 ‘Power Lines and Migratory Birds’.

- Completed – Hyperlinks saved under ‘Resources’ tab.

Action TAG1-10: Power Grids: (a) The Coordinating Unit to request the map of Hungary from Mátyás Prommer showing the network of power lines and important bird sites; and, (b) TAG Power Lines & Renewables Working Group to recommend a way for Signatories to develop and utilise maps for planning purposes that incorporate power line networks and IBAs.

- (a) Completed; and, (b) Ongoing – Issue to be covered in progress report by Working Group Lead to be presented at TAG2.

Action TAG1-11: The Coordinating Unit to liaise with the CMS Secretariat to consider approaching IRENA as to the potential for an industry-supported workshop on energy impacts on migratory birds.

- Ongoing – CMS COP11 adopted Resolution 11.27 on Renewable Energy and Migratory Species which includes establishment of an Energy Task Force and endorsement of the following report: ‘Renewable Energy Technology Deployment and Migratory Species: An Overview’, prepared by IRENA under contract with the CMS Secretariat.

Action TAG1-12: The Coordinating Unit to work with the CMS Secretariat to encourage the Executive Secretary to write to USAID, welcoming the Power Africa Initiative, noting risks to migratory birds of expansion of African power-grids and highlighting opportunities to build-in best standards from the outset.

- Ongoing – Coordinating Unit drafted letter concerning Power Africa initiative which was sent to USAID by Bradnee Chambers. Subsequent communications and contact took place but still opportunity to apply more influence.

Action TAG1-13: The Coordinating Unit to encourage the CMS Family to work closely with the ‘chemicals cluster’ and continue its collaboration with the Bern Convention in Europe and beyond and continue to be proactive in promoting the threat to migratory raptors from poisoning.

- Ongoing – Coordinating Unit worked closely with CMS Secretariat and AEWA, including contributing financial support for the Minimizing Poisoning Working Group. CMS COP11 adopted Resolution 11.15 - ‘Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds’ and associated Guidelines.

Action TAG1-14: The lead of the TAG Poisoning Working Group to ensure that the points made about poisoning, including the various types, are incorporated into the relevant Task Tracking Document (Activity 3, Task 3.4).

- Ongoing – To be covered in Progress Report to TAG2 by Working Group Lead.

Action TAG1-15: TAG Monitoring & Research Working Group to identify mechanisms to more effectively communicate volunteering opportunities for raptor conservation activities, particularly aimed at recruiting volunteers from European States.

- Ongoing – Subject to deliberations by TAG Working Group and to be covered in Progress Report to TAG2 by Working Group Lead.

Action TAG1-16: TAG Monitoring & Research Working Group to further consider the possibility of establishing a list of experts on monitoring, to potentially provide advice or participate in surveys.

- Ongoing – Subject to deliberations by TAG Working Group and to be covered in Progress Report to TAG2 by Working Group Lead.

Action TAG1-17: TAG members to consider providing examples of data-sharing protocols.

- Ongoing – Low priority but opportunity to seek feedback from TAG Members at TAG2.

Action TAG1-18: To devise a reporting system for Signatories which integrates with the existing CMS and AEWA Online Reporting Systems – see TTD Activity 6 ‘Reporting: Supporting Measures’, Task 6.1.

- Ongoing – To be covered in Progress Report to TAG2 by Working Group Lead.

Action TAG1-19: Forward planning: (a) To develop and adopt a mechanism to routinely incorporate horizon-scanning into the work of TAG; and, (b) To capture emerging issues to be presented to MoS2.

- Ongoing, both (a) and (b) – To be covered in the paper being developed on Horizon Scanning – see Action TAG1-23 (below).

Action TAG1-20: The Coordinating Unit to circulate the Project Proposals to TAG Members again with a revised assessment table incorporating some points from the template from AEWA.

- Completed – Project Proposals circulated with revised Assessment Table shortly after TAG1.

Action TAG1-21: The Coordinating Unit to collate the comments from TAG Members and to circulate these to Signatories with the suite of Project Proposals.

- Completed – Comments received from several TAG Members. Subsequently, circulated to Signatories for offers of funding.

Action TAG1-22: The Coordinating Unit to organize a teleconference with the TAG members that could not attend the TAG1, ideally within two weeks of the meeting.

- Completed – Telecom held with TAG members who were unable to attend TAG1, including follow-up one-to-one training via telephone on use of WorkSpace.

Action TAG1-23: The Coordinating Unit to include 'Horizon-scanning' to the TAG WorkPlan in 'Other Activities/Actions'- no TTD required.

- Ongoing – Horizon Scanning session included in Provisional Agenda for TAG2.

Action TAG1-24: The Coordinating Unit to follow up David Stroud's offer to coordinate the drafting of a Resolution on the perilous state of vultures for MoS2.

- Ongoing – Threats to Vultures are real, present and increasing. For further consideration at TAG2.

Action TAG1-25: Once the TTD's are finalised, the Coordinating Unit to: (a) produce a consolidated WorkPlan including a brief legend with a timeline; and, (b) circulate it to TAG members for comment.

- (a) Partially Actioned – draft WorkPlan produced but awaiting updated TTDs from Working Group Leads. See also Action TAG1-6 (above); and, (b) Partially Actioned – draft WorkPlan to be circulated following receipt of updated TTDs from Working Group Leads.

Action TAG1-26: The Coordinating Unit to include the proposal for a Gyps Workshop to the TAG WorkPlan as a potential Action under Horizon Scanning.

- Ongoing – Proposal included in Activity 7: Additional Tasks: Emerging Issues and Horizon Scanning. For consideration at TAG2.