



# CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

Distr: General

UNEP/CMS/Inf.10.18.10  
31 May 2011

Original: English

TENTH MEETING OF THE  
CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES  
Bergen, 20-25 November 2011  
Agenda Item 16b

## REVIEW OF ARTICLE IV AGREEMENTS ALREADY CONCLUDED

- I. The Secretariat is circulating herewith, for the information of participants in the Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species, the report provided by the Abu Dhabi CMS Interim Coordinating Unit for the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia, to accompany document UNEP/CMS/Conf.10.9.
2. The report is provided unedited in the format and language that it was submitted.

## EXAMEN DES ACCORDS DE L'ARTICLE IV DEJA CONCLUS

1. Le Secrétariat diffuse ci-joint, pour l'information des participants à la dixième session de la Conférence des Parties à la Convention sur les espèces migratrices, le rapport développé par l'Abu Dhabi CMS intérimaire Unité de coordination pour le Mémorandum d'Accord sur la Conservation des Oiseaux de Proie Migrateurs d'Afrique et d'Eurasie, pour accompagner le document UNEP/CMS/Conf.10.9.
2. Le rapport est fourni sans avoir été mis au point, dans le format et la langue dans lesquels il a été soumis.

## REVISIÓN DE ACUERDOS ARTÍCULO IV YA CONCLUIDOS

1. La Secretaría adjunta, para información de los participantes a la décimo Conferencia de las Partes de la Convención sobre Especies Migratorias, el informe completo presentado por el Abu Dhabi CMS Provisional Unidad de Coordinación para el Memorando de Acuerdo sobre la Conservación de las Aves Rapaces de Migratorias de África y Eurasia, en complemento en el documento UNEP/CMS/Conf.10.9.
2. El informe se presenta sin modificaciones editoriales, bajo la forma y en el idioma original.



31 May 2011

UNEP/CMS/Inf.10.18.10

**Review of Article IV Agreements already concluded:  
Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in  
Africa and Eurasia**

**A. Background**

1. The UNEP/CMS Office in Abu Dhabi is funded by the Government of Abu Dhabi and hosted by the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD). The signature of the Donor Agreement between UNEP and EAD occurred in October 2009 and the signature of a Host Country Agreement is under consideration for signature between UNEP, EAD and the United Arab Emirates Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Once signed, this document will complete the Office's UN jurisdictional personality. At present, the Office's human resources comprise Executive Coordinator, supported by Programme Officer - Dugongs (PO-Dugongs), Associate Programme Officer and Administrative/Finance Assistant.

2. The Office serves as an Interim Coordinating Unit (ICU) for the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia, in accordance with MOU paragraph 11 that stipulates ICU to be established in collaboration with the authorities of EAD, immediately after the conclusion of the MOU – meanwhile a permanent Coordinating Unit to be established at the first session of the Meeting of Signatories (MOU, paragraph 16). The functions of this Office include communication with range states and supporting partners, promotion of conservation projects/programmes, providing technical expertise, and supporting capacity building.

3. As per its Terms of Reference, this Office plays a key role in coordinating relevant initiatives to protect migratory species in line with the provisions of the above-mentioned MOU as well as the existing bodies within the sub-region.

4. In addition, the Abu Dhabi Office delivers other CMS programmes in the Western Asia and Indian Ocean areas, e.g. staff members at the Office represent the UNEP/CMS Secretariat in regional meetings of relevance when and where appropriate. The Office also continues to support the international interests of EAD and UAE more broadly, through its representations during missions, meetings, workshops and conferences.

**B. Review of the progress made towards the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia**

5. UNEP/CMS Office in Abu Dhabi serves as the Interim Coordinating Unit (ICU) of the MOU on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia, in accordance with MOU paragraph 10 and paragraph 11. The MOU has 31 signatories (including Birdlife International as a supporting Organization) and a geographical scope expanding to over 138 states and territories.



6. Since the establishment of the UNEP/CMS Office - Abu Dhabi the Birds of Prey MOU has gained two new signatories. Additional signatures to the Dugong MOU are expected in the near future. The European Union has recently approved the signing of the Birds of Prey MOU by EU as well as its individual member states. Amongst the 21 EU countries not yet signatories to this MOU, France is ready to sign at the Tenth Session of the Conference of the Parties to CMS, in Bergen, Norway, 20-25 November 2011. CMS Secretariat and Abu Dhabi Office are making their utmost as to bring the maximum of signatories from those EU countries, now that approval from EU is there to facilitate internal procedures.

7. The incumbent of post of PO-Birds left in July 2010 for family reasons. Appointment of the selected candidate is now in the final stages – with interviews having been conducted in February 2011. Until this position is filled, the Executive Coordinator has been taking on any urgent/pending tasks of the MOU Interim Coordinating Unit.

8. The ICU has begun to work on seeking formal designation of Focal Points within the Range States, and maintaining contacts to main partners of the CMS MOU on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey (BirdLife International and European Commission).

9. For the formal designation of Focal Points, a mailing list has been developed and is continuously updated. Letter of Notification to countries that participated at least in one of the constituting meetings of the MOU was sent off in September 2009. Contact details for communication with UNEP/CMS Office - Abu Dhabi were provided along with information on Office launch. On the occasion of signing the Donor Agreement to formally establish a UNEP/CMS Office in Abu Dhabi between UNEP and EAD in October 2009, further letters were sent to signatories urging them – in accordance with the text of Birds of Prey MOU – to submit coordinates of their Focal Points and conservation strategies. To date, the following 22 Signatories have informed the ICU of the nominations for National Focal Points: Angola, Chad, Congo, Djibouti, Finland, Guinea, Hungary, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Portugal, Senegal, Sudan, Togo, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, and Yemen. In addition, Range States that had not yet signed the MOU received a letter in which they were informed on the signing of the Donor Agreement and were encouraged to join the Signatory family based on CMS Article IV.

10. To establish and maintain contacts to the main MOU partners, information has been exchanged with BirdLife International regarding the support of the project “Mainstreaming Conservation of Migratory Soaring Birds into Key Productive Sectors along the Rift Valley / Red Sea Flyway” by the UNEP/CMS Office - Abu Dhabi. The project is highly relevant to develop awareness for conservation of migratory birds of prey. Development of a working plan was proposed by Abu Dhabi Office in 2009 to define mutual benefits and roles of BirdLife International and UNEP/CMS Office - Abu Dhabi. This, however, didn't materialize due to different interests and other urgent projects BirdLife International had.

11. To strengthen the partnership with European Community, letters have been sent to the Range States who are members to the European Science Foundation (ESF). The UNEP/CMS Office Abu Dhabi encouraged the Focal Points of the Range States to contact relevant member organizations of ESF in their countries to indicate support for the Research Networking Program (RNP), Research and Monitoring For and With Raptors in Europe (EURAPMON). EURAPMON was positively evaluated by the scientific committee of the ESF and funding decision which was up to the respective member organization of ESF has been satisfactory. EURAPMON under the coordination of the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (Natural Environment Research Council) would make an important contribution to implementation of the MOU in Europe.

12. A Small Scale Funding Agreement (SSFA) was established in September 2010 with the Ministry of Environment and Forests of Madagascar, for launching a National Strategy with a specific objective to establish Action Plans for *Falco eleonorae* and *Falco concolor* protection. More SSFAs are expected during the year 2011, such as – but not restraint to – the elaboration of a regional plan research strategy on *Falco concolor* monitoring, as well as a UAE national strategy with EAD and a partner.

13. In November 2010 the Signatories to the MOU were requested to comment on a document established by the ICU: “Guidelines for Preparing National or Regional Strategies in the Framework of the MOU on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia”. The guidelines are aiming at assisting in the preparation for the First Meeting of the Signatories to the Birds of Prey MOU. Nine Signatories sent their comments by the deadline of 30 November 2010, namely: Hungary (Ministry of Rural Development), Madagascar (Ministry of Environment and Forest), Morocco (Scientific Councilor of Morocco to CMS), Netherlands (Department of Nature, Landscape and Rural Affairs), Pakistan (National Council for Conservation of Wildlife), Togo (Department of Wildlife and Hunting), United Arab Emirates (Environment Agency), United Kingdom (Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs), and BirdLife International in the UK. Comments will be taken into account by the new PO-Birds as soon as he takes duty in preparation of the first meeting of signatory states.

14. To comply with MOU provisions, the First Meeting of the Signatories to the Birds of Prey MOU is envisaged for year 2012. MOU paragraph 14 determines when the first session of the Meeting of the Signatories will be convened alongside two options (i) after at least three quarters of those that are Signatories at the time the MOU became effective (28 Signatories) have submitted their strategies or equivalent measures or, (ii) funds permitting, three years after the Memorandum of Understanding has become effective (i.e. November 2011). The earlier most of signatories will provide their strategies to the ICU the better the meeting date will be determined, as these documents would be part of the Meeting agenda.

15. It is noteworthy to note that EAD has been involved, as host and funding Agency of UNEP/CMS Office, in the selection process of the programme Officer (Birds) to be appointed imminently. An appropriate programme of work aiming at implementing the MOU's Action Plan is envisaged within the new reviewed budget for the triennium 2012-2014 that has been presented by this Office to the donor. It is expected that -- upon PO-Birds appointment -- this programme will be accelerated in order to advance the MOU implementation, and thus maintain the momentum with the range states and relevant partners.