

Draft Terms of Reference for the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors MoU)

Purpose and Main Tasks

1. The purpose of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) is to serve and assist the Signatories in the effective implementation of the Raptors MoU, including the Action Plan.
2. Members of the TAG serve in their capacity as specialist individuals rather than as representatives of Governments or organizations with which they also may be affiliated.
3. The Coordinating Unit (CU) of the Raptors MoU will serve to receive and transmit requests from the Signatories for advice from the TAG.
4. The main tasks of the TAG are to:
 - a. Provide expert advice, information and making recommendations on the implementation of the Raptors MoU, to the Signatories and the Coordinating Unit, as requested;
 - b. Analysing, as necessary, scientific advice and assessments and making recommendations, particularly concerning the content of Annexes I, II and III, in the Action Plan of the Raptors MoU;
 - c. Preparing a written report of its activities for each session of the Meeting of Signatories to be submitted to the Coordinating Unit at least 60 days in advance of the meeting;
 - d. Recommending the Coordinating Unit convene an urgent session of the Meeting of Signatories should an emergency situation arise; and,
 - e. Carrying out any other tasks referred to it by the Meeting of Signatories.

Size and Composition

5. Membership of the TAG shall comprise persons operating in their personal capacity, and qualified as specialists in raptor research, conservation and/or management. In appointing persons to the TAG, Signatories should strive to achieve a balance amongst areas of expertise.
6. Membership shall include:
 - Ten persons nominated by Signatories from the four main geo-political regions covered by the Raptors MoU, namely: Africa¹ (excluding the North) – 3 representatives; Asia² – 2 representatives; Europe³ – 3 representatives; and, the Middle East and North Africa⁴ – 2 representative.
 - One person nominated by BirdLife International – the IUCN nominated authority on birds.
7. The TAG may invite [up to five] other specialists to contribute to its deliberations and/or attend its meetings in order to provide additional expertise.

Nomination and Appointment

8. Each Signatory may nominate one individual, regardless of their nationality and in accordance with Paragraph 5, to serve on the TAG.
9. Nominations for any vacancies should be provided in writing to the CU at least 60 days in advance of the Meeting of Signatories and should include detailed information on the professional background

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of the nominee (e.g. Curriculum vitae). The CU should circulate such nominations to all Signatories of the respective region.

10. For the establishment of the TAG, which is anticipated will take place at the 1st Meeting of Signatories, nominations for membership will exceptionally be accepted by the CU during the meeting, and not in accordance with Paragraph 8.

11. The Signatories of each region should appoint their regional representatives by consensus, from among the individuals nominated, taking into account their technical expertise relating to birds of prey. If every effort to appoint regional representatives for the TAG by consensus fails, the Signatories shall appoint the by election (voting).

12. TAG members should serve for a period of two regular Meetings of Signatories and in exceptional cases may be nominated for a third term.

13. The Coordinating Unit should inform the Signatories of any vacancies arising from the expiry of a term or other reason, such as voluntary resignation.

14. Should a vacancy arise intersessionally, the TAG may propose a replacement for consideration by the Signatories. The proposal shall be communicated to the Signatories of the region concerned by the Coordinating Unit and shall be accompanied by the same information of the professional background of the nominee as would be required for a regular nomination. In the absence of any objections from the Signatories of the region concerned, within 30 days of the communication from the CU, the interim appointment will be considered as having been accepted, and will become effective immediately. If an objection is raised by a Signatory, the procedure may be repeated, as appropriate, until an acceptable candidate is identified. The term of appointment of the provisional nominee shall expire at the end of the next Meeting of Signatories, unless re-nominated by the Signatories of the region concerned.

Officers

15. The TAG shall select a Chair and a Vice-Chair, who should be the principle point of contact between the TAG and the Coordinating Unit.

16. The Chair of the TAG should participate in Meetings of Signatories, and may also participate, if funding permits, in the meetings of related and associated agreements and organisations that the Signatories deem relevant to the work of the Raptors MoU. The other members of the TAG may participate as observers in the Meetings of Signatories.

17. The Chair of the TAG shall provide a report of the Group's work to each session of the Meeting of Signatories.

18. The Vice-Chair shall assist in the execution of the Chair's functions, and shall preside over meetings in the absence of the Chair.

Modus Operandi

19. In order to conduct its business efficiently and to minimize costs, the TAG should operate through electronic means whenever possible.

20. Where the need arises, meetings of the TAG should be convened by the Chair of the Group in consultation with the Coordinating Unit, and where possible hosted by a Signatory to the Raptors MoU.

21. Notice of meetings of the TAG, including the date and venue, shall be sent to all members of the Group by the Coordinating Unit at least 45 days in advance.

¹ Africa includes the following 46 countries (15 Signatories): **Angola**, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, **Burundi**, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, **Chad**, Comoros, **Congo**. Cote D'Ivoire, **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, **Equatorial Guinea**, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, **Gambia**, **Ghana**, **Guinea**, Guinea-Bissau, **Kenya**, Lesotho, Liberia, **Madagascar**, Malawi, **Mali**, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, **Senegal**, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, **South Africa**, Swaziland, **Togo**, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

² Asia includes the following 15 countries (3 Signatories): Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, **Mongolia**, **Nepal**, **Pakistan**, People's Republic of China, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

³ Europe includes the following 49 countries and the **European Union** (17 Signatories): Albania, Andorra, **Armenia**, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, **Belgium**, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, **Denmark (Incl. Faeroe Islands and Greenland)**, Estonia, **Finland (Incl. Aland Islands)**, **France (Incl. Mayotte and Reunion)**, Georgia, **Germany**, Greece, **Hungary**, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, **Italy**, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, **Luxembourg**, Malta, **Monaco**, Montenegro, **Netherlands**, **Norway (Incl. Svalbard and Jan Mayen Islands)**, Poland, **Portugal**, Republic of Moldova, **Romania**, Russia Federation, San Marino, Serbia, **Slovakia**, Slovenia, Spain (Incl. the Canary Islands), Sweden, Switzerland, The FYR of Macedonia, Ukraine, **United Kingdom (Incl. Jersey, Guernsey, Isle of Man, Cyprus sovereign bases and Gibraltar)** and Vatican City.

⁴ Middle East and North Africa includes the following 20 countries (5 Signatories): Algeria, Bahrain, **Djibouti**, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, **Morocco**, Oman, Palestinian Authority Territories, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, **Sudan**, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, **United Arab Emirates** and **Yemen**.

Note: **Signatories** to the Raptors MoU (as at 1 Oct 2012) are highlighted in bold.