



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

Distribution: General

CMS/Raptors/MoS1/
Doc.11.2

05 December 2012

Original: English

1ST MEETING OF SIGNATORIES
Abu Dhabi, UAE, 9-11 December 2012

CONFLICT BETWEEN MIGRATORY BIRDS AND ELECTRICITY POWER GRIDS

Prepared by the Interim Coordinating Unit

1. In 2010, the AEWA and CMS Secretariats commissioned a German contractor to undertake a review covering all aspects of the conflict between migratory birds and electricity power grids in the African-Eurasian region, as well as of available mitigation measures and their effectiveness. Their full report is presented as CMS/Raptors/MoS1/Inf.11.2. The Executive Summary of the review (as in UNEP/CMS/Conf.10.29/Rev.2¹) is presented at CMS/Raptors/MoS1/Doc.11.2/Annex I.
2. The report found that Power lines constitute one of the major causes of unnatural deaths for birds in large parts of the African-Eurasian region, with an estimated many millions of victims each year. The main causes of death are from electrocution and collisions, each of which affects different species. Many of these birds are internationally protected, including by CMS and covered by the Raptors MoU.
3. *'Guidelines on how to avoid or mitigate the impact of electricity power grids on migratory birds in the African-Eurasian region'* (CMS/Raptors/MoS1/Doc.11.2/Annex II) were presented and adopted at CMS COP10 in Norway in November 2011. Technical and legislative solutions as well as suggestions for evaluating and monitoring the effectiveness of mitigation and preventative measures are covered by these Guidelines.
4. CMS Resolution 10.11 on power lines and migratory birds (CMS/Raptors/MoS1/Doc.11.2/Annex III) urges CMS Parties and encourages non-Parties to implement the mitigation Guidelines as applicable, and to:
 - (i) apply the AEWA Conservation Guidelines No. 11 on Strategic Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment procedures regarding the development of power lines;
 - (ii) consult regularly relevant stakeholders in order to monitor jointly the impacts of power lines on birds and to agree on a common policy of action;
 - (iii) establish a baseline of bird distribution, population sizes, migrations and movements as early as possible in the planning of any power line project;
 - (iv) design the location, route and direction of power lines on the basis of national zoning maps and avoid construction along major migration flyways and in habitats of conservation importance;
 - (v) identify those sections of existing power lines that are causing relatively high levels of bird injury and/or mortality due to electrocution and/or collision, and modify these as a matter of priority by applying the techniques recommended by the mitigation Guidelines; and,
 - (vi) regularly monitor and evaluate the impact of power lines on bird populations at the national scale, as well as the effectiveness of mitigation measures put in place to minimize the impact of power lines on bird populations.
5. Parties instructed the CMS Secretariat, in close cooperation with relevant CMS agreements, to disseminate the Guidelines widely and to update them regularly, as appropriate.

¹ http://www.cms.int/bodies/COP/cop10/docs_and_inf_docs/doc_29_electro_review_e.pdf

6. Many species of birds of prey are particularly at risk from electrocution due to their habit of selectively utilising power grid structures for perching, roosting and nesting. In view of the serious threat posed to some migratory raptors, and to assist in promoting widespread use of the Guidelines, the ICU has commissioned unofficial courtesy translations into Arabic and Russian of both CMS Resolution 10.11 and the Guidelines.

Action Requested

The Meeting is invited to endorse CMS COP Resolution 10.11 on power lines and migratory birds and to urge adoption of the mitigation Guidelines by Signatories, and encourage Range States of the Raptors MoU to do likewise.