



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

Distribution: General
UNEP/CMS/Raptors/TAG1/4

16 January 2014

First Meeting of the Technical Advisory Group | *Edinburgh, Scotland, United Kingdom, 20-23 January 2014*

Aims and Objectives of the Technical Advisory Group to the Raptors MoU

Prepared by the Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MoU

1. At the 1st Meeting of Signatories (MoS1), held in Abu Dhabi in December 2012, a proposal was adopted to establish a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to serve and assist Signatories in the effective implementation of the Raptors MoU.
2. The purpose of the TAG is stated in the Terms of Reference that were also adopted at MoS1, as follows:
 - Provide expert advice, information and make recommendations on the implementation of the Raptors MoU, to the Signatories and the CU, as requested;
 - Analyse, as necessary, scientific advice and assessments and to make recommendations, particularly concerning the content of Annexes I, II and III, in the Action Plan of the Raptors MoU;
 - Provide comments on any proposals to amend the MoU text which have a technical content;
 - Prepare a written report of its activities to deliver its work programme for each session of the Meeting of Signatories to be submitted to the CU at least 60 days in advance of the meeting; and,
 - Carry out any other tasks referred to it by the Meeting of Signatories (MoS).
3. TAG consists of 16 specialist ornithologists, comprising 10 Regional Representatives (3 for Africa; 2 for Asia; 3 for Europe and 2 for the Middle East and North Africa), 5 individuals with expert knowledge relating to birds of prey, and a representative from BirdLife International (IUCN delegated Red List Authority for birds).
4. There are obviously significant practical and logistical challenges associated with a group of people working together who are located in 16 different countries spread across three separate continents. Frequent face-to-face meetings are simply not feasible due to cost considerations alone.
5. Signatories acknowledged at MoS1 that in order to conduct its business efficiently and to minimize costs, the TAG should operate through electronic means whenever possible. For example, via email, teleconference and web-based conferencing facilities. In view of this, the Coordinating Unit has developed an online Workspace, which will allow TAG members to work together using the communication opportunities offered by the internet, but with tightly restricted access.
6. Signatories also recognized that where the need arises, and finances permit, face-to-face 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.

7. The organisation of the First Meeting of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG1) has been made possible thanks to the generous support received from the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Scottish Government, and Scottish Natural Heritage.

8. The main aims of the TAG1 meeting are to:

- Bring together the widely distributed members of the TAG to enable them to meet each other (many for the first time) and to create a firm platform and sound understanding on which they will work together electronically over the following two years;
- Review and prioritise the list of tasks assigned to the TAG by Signatories and to agree approaches to be adopted to address each of them;
- Develop a 2-year WorkPlan (2014-15) for the TAG, including establishing milestones, and assigning individual TAG members to lead on each key task;
- Provide a unique opportunity to offer face-to-face training for TAG members on the online Workspace; and,
- Seize the opportunity by setting aside a whole day for a fieldtrip to provide TAG members with a chance to experience some of the raptor riches of Scotland, whilst simultaneously creating an informal setting to promote and facilitate the development of enhanced understanding and sound working relationships.

Action requested

The TAG is invited to use this document to guide its deliberations at its first meeting.