



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

27 May 2013

**PRESS RELEASE**

## Tunisia Engages in Raptor Conservation under the Convention on Migratory Species

**Tunis, 27 May 2013** – Tunisia today signed the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors MOU) under the auspices of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS). The signing ceremony took place immediately after the opening of the CMS Technical Workshop on Minimising Poisoning of Migratory Birds, which is being held this week in Tunis.

The Raptors MOU was signed by Dr Khaled Zahzah, Assistant Director of Hunting and National Parks at the Head Office of Forests, on behalf of the Government of Tunisia on Monday.

Tunisia is located along one of the major avian flyways in North Africa. More than 250 species of migratory birds have been recorded in the country, including 30 different birds of prey listed in the CMS Raptors MOU. Two of these, the Saker Falcon (*Falco cherrug*) and the Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*), are classified as endangered species.

Cap Bon is a spectacular peninsula in the northeast of the country that is an internationally recognized bottleneck for migratory raptors. Tens of thousands of these birds pass over the area every year, particularly in Springtime on their journeys to breeding areas further North, primarily in Europe. Large flocks of Black Kites (*Milvus migrans*), Honey Buzzards (*Pernis apivorus*), Red-footed Falcons (*Falco vespertinus*) make the sea crossing to Sicily.

Tunisia is the 43<sup>rd</sup> Signatory to the Raptors MOU. The instrument will become effective for the country on 1 June 2013.

**Note to Editors:**

**The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)** works for the conservation of a wide array of endangered migratory animals worldwide through the negotiation and implementation of agreements and action plans. CMS, which is administered by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), is a global biodiversity convention with special expertise in the field of migratory species. At present, there are 119 Parties to the Convention.

For more information please visit: <http://www.cms.int>.

**The CMS Memorandum of Understanding on the conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Birds of Prey (Raptors MOU)** is administered by a Coordinating Unit based in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. It is hosted by the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi, on behalf of the Government of the United Arab Emirates. The Raptors MoU came into effect on 1 November 2008 and already has 43 Signatories (42 countries and the European Union) and 3 Cooperating Partners (BirdLife International, International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey, and the CMS Secretariat). It covers 76 species of migratory birds of prey and extends to over 130 Range States in the African-Eurasian Region.

**Current Signatories to the CMS Raptors MOU** (27 May 2013) are: Angola, Armenia, Belgium, Burundi, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, European Union, Finland, France, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Guinea, Hungary, Italy, Kenya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mali, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, Niger, Norway, Pakistan, Portugal, Romania, Senegal, Slovak Republic, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and Yemen.

[www.cms.int/species/raptors](http://www.cms.int/species/raptors)

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