

SIXTH MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP TO THE RAPTORS MOU

(Online, 9 January 2024)

UNEP/CMS/RAPTORS/TAG6/Report

MEETING REPORT

(Prepared by the Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MOU)

1. Welcome, Introductions and Meeting Agenda

The Coordinating Unit opened the meeting by welcoming all participants and giving the floor to Mr Des Thompson, elected Chair of the TAG until the Third Meeting of Signatories to the Raptors MOU (MOS3), who invited all meeting participants (refer to Annex 1) to introduce themselves.

Meeting participants agreed to an agenda for the meeting.

2. Election of TAG Chair and Vice-Chair

The election of the TAG Chair and Vice-Chair was led by Mr Thompson. The meeting consensually elected Mr André Botha as new Chair of the TAG and Mr Mátyás Prommer as new Vice-Chair of the TAG. Mr Botha, as newly elected Chair, chaired the meeting from this point onwards.

3. Presentations by TAG Members on Ongoing Research Relevant to the TAG Workplan 2023-2026

Ms Darcy Ogada shared with the Group some updates relating to regional action plans in East Africa and red listing of species in the region. She informed the Group that Tanzania completed its National Conservation and Management Plan for Vultures in December 2023, and that Kenya anticipated completion of its Vulture Multi-Species Action Plan in March 2024.

Mr Neil Deacon indicated that Zimbabwe was undertaking work to address belief-based use of vultures.

Ms Fadzai Matsvimbo informed the Group that conversations were ongoing with the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to adopt the CMS Multi-Species Action Plan to Conserve African-Eurasian Vultures (Vulture MsAP) and address the issue of lead poisoning through the delivery of an action plan.

Mr Ohad Hatzofe shared some research findings on dispersal patterns of Bonelli's Eagle, a species found to be greatly affected by electrocution. He also shared some details on the progress that Israel had been making to address that cause of mortality.

Mr Mohammed Shobrak indicated that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia had been discussing the issue of Diclofenac use with the World Organisation for Animal Health. He also noted that a vulture project had been initiated in the northern part of the country.

The Group agreed to Ms Vicky Jones, Mr Hatzofe and Mr Shobrak co-drafting a concept document on how to address the issue of the CMS definition of migratory species applying to juvenile and sub-adult individuals' movements. The three TAG members agreed to develop the draft document and share it with the Group ahead of its next meeting.

The TAG Chair informed the Group that the Raptors MOU had engaged the Endangered Wildlife Trust to conduct a mid-term review of the CMS Vulture MsAP. As part of the review, a questionnaire had been prepared and sent out across the MsAP's range. A total of 103 responses had been received from countries and various organisations working on vulture conservation. A resulting initial draft report on findings was submitted to the Coordinating Unit in November 2023, and the final version of the report was anticipated to become available by the end of January 2024.

4. Overview of the TOR of the TAG

The Coordinating Unit reminded the Group of its mandate, as well as of how to find relevant pages with information on the TAG on the Raptors MOU website.

5. Review and Update of the of the TAG Workplan 2023-2026

The Coordinating Unit briefed the Group on the review and update process of the TAG Workplan 2023-2026 following MOS3.

6. Identification of [TAG Workplan 2023-2026](#) Action Leads and Contributors

The Coordinating Unit clarified that appointed leads were not responsible for funding each of the actions of the TAG Workplan 2023-2026 and their associated activities. In discussing the Workplan, TAG members agreed to being actively involved in the 29 actions of the Workplan, as follows:

- **Action 1:** Ms Jones (lead); Mr Ralph Buij (contributor)
- **Action 2:** Ms Jones (lead); Mr Hatzofe (contributor)
- **Action 3:** Ms Jones (lead)
- **Action 4:** Mr Botha (lead)
- **Action 5:** Mr Botha (lead)
- **Action 6:** Mr Botha (lead); Mr Prommer (contributor)
- **Action 7:** Mr Botha (lead); Mr Prommer (contributor)
- **Action 8:** Ms Ogada (lead); Ms Jones (contributor)
- **Action 9:** Ms Jones (lead); Mr Shobrak, Mr Hatzofe (contributors)
- **Action 10:** Mr Botha, Mr Prommer (leads); all TAG (contributors)
- **Action 11:** all TAG (leads)
- **Action 12:** Mr Campbell Murn, Ms Matsvimbo (leads); Mr Botha (contributor)
- **Action 13:** Ms Jones (lead); Mr Thompson (contributor); contribution of this Action to Actions 12 and 14 was noted
- **Action 14:** Ms Jones (lead); link between this Action and Action 15 was noted
- **Action 15:** Ms Jones (lead); Ms Aradis (contributor)
- **Action 16.1:** Mr Hatzofe (lead); Mr Buij, Mr Botha, Mr Munir Virani, Ms Aradis (contributors)
- **Action 16.2:** Mr Hatzofe (lead); Mr Buij, Mr Botha, Ms Jones, Mr Virani, Ms Aradis

- (contributors)
- **Action 17:** Mr Botha, Mr Prommer (leads)
 - **Action 18:** Mr Deacon (lead); Mr Hatzofe, Mr Buij (contributor)
 - **Action 19:** Mr Prommer (lead); Mr Virani, Mr Thompson (contributors)
 - **Action 20:** Coordinating Unit (lead); Mr Thompson, Mr Karen Aghababyan, Ms Aradis, Mr Shobrak (contributors)
 - **Action 21:** Ms Jones (lead); Mr Thompson, Mr Aghababyan, Ms Aradis, Mr Shobrak (contributors)
 - **Action 22:** Mr Hatzofe (lead)
 - **Action 23:** Mr Murn (lead); Mr Botha, Ms Jones (contributors)
 - **Action 24:** Mr Thompson (lead); all TAG (contributors)
 - **Action 25:** Mr Murn (lead); Mr Imad Cherkaoui, Mr Hatzofe, Mr Aghababyan, Mr Deacon, Mr Shobrak (contributors)
 - **Action 26:** Mr Shobrak (contributor)
 - **Action 27:** Ms Matsvimbo (lead); Mr Aghababyan, Mr Shobrak, Mr Botha (contributors)
 - **Action 28:** Coordinating Unit (lead); Ms Jones, Mr Cherkaoui (contributor)
 - **Action 29:** Coordinating Unit (lead); all TAG (contributors); link between this Action and Actions 16 and 23 was noted

TAG members agreed to confirm their contributions following the meeting by commenting on the draft Meeting Report.

7. TAG7

The TAG Chair noted that an in-person meeting would be beneficial for the work of the TAG and other TAG members agreed. The last quarter of 2024 would be a potential timeframe to aim for such meeting. The Group agreed that if no funding and venue could be arranged by the end of July 2024, the next TAG meeting would be virtual.

8. AOB

The Coordinating Unit committed to exploring options for centralizing documentation produced and encountered by the TAG. The TAG Chair requested the creation of a WhatsApp group by the Coordinating Unit for informal communication among TAG members.

ANNEX 1
ALPHABETICAL LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Members of the TAG

André Botha <i>Chair</i>	Co-Chair Vulture Specialist Group Manager, Vultures for Africa Programme Endangered Wildlife Trust South Africa
Arianna Aradis	Senior Researcher, Bird Migration Research Area Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA) Italy
Campbell Murn	Head of Conservation and Research Hawk Conservancy Trust United Kingdom Lecturer School of Biological Sciences, University of Reading United Kingdom
Darcy Ogada	Africa Programme Director The Peregrine Fund Kenya
Des Thompson	Principal Adviser on Science and Biodiversity NatureScot United Kingdom
Fadzai Matsvimbo	Preventing Extinction Programme Coordinator BirdLife International, Africa Secretariat Kenya
Imad Cherkaoui	Associate Professor Ecole Supérieure de Technologie de Kénifra, University of Ibn Tofail Morocco
Karen Aghababyan	Legal Adviser Minister of Environment of Armenia Executive Director BirdLinks Armenia Armenia
Mohammed Shobrak	Consultant & Board member National Centre for Wildlife Saudi Arabia
Munir Virani	Chief Executive Officer The Mohamed Bin Zayed Raptor Conservation Fund United Arab Emirates
Neil Deacon	President BirdLife Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe
Nyambayar Batbayar	Director Wildlife Science and Conservation Center of Mongolia Mongolia
Ohad Hatzofe	Head Avian Ecologist, Division of Science & Conservation Israel Nature & Parks Authority Israel
Ralph Buij	Senior Scientist, Animal Ecology Group

	Wageningen University & Research The Netherlands Senior Scientist The Peregrine Fund (Africa and Asia Programmes)
Vicky Jones	Flyways Science Coordinator BirdLife International United Kingdom

TAG member Mátyás Prommer (elected Vice-Chair) could not attend the meeting.

Convention on Migratory Species

Lauren Lopes	Associate Programme Management Officer CMS Office - Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates
Umberto Gallo-Orsi	Programme Management Officer (Raptors MOU) CMS Office - Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates
