



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

Distribution: General
UNEP/CMS/Raptors/TAG3/Doc.4.1c

11 November 2018

Third Meeting of the Technical Advisory Group | *Sempach, Switzerland, 12-14 December 2018*

AMENDMENTS TO THE GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE OF THE RAPTORS MOU

Prepared by Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MOU

1. The CMS Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors MOU) came into effect on 1 November 2008. A map of the geographic area encompassed by the Raptors MOU, including a complete list of Range States and territories, is contained in Annex 2 to the MOU¹. Annex 2 was amended at the second Meeting of Signatories (MOS2) to add South Sudan as a Range State.

2. Over the decade since the Raptors MOU was established, a number of potentially significant developments have taken place which merit consideration of further potential amendments to Annex 2 to the MOU, as follows:

- a. New research, including through the deployment of modern technologies (e.g. satellite tracking), has provided more detailed information about the behavior and movements of many of the 93 species of migratory birds of prey listed in Annex 1 to the Raptors MoU. For example, robust scientific evidence now exists showing the regular movement of Amur Falcon (*Falco amurensis*) and Cinereous Vulture (*Aegypius monachus*) into countries outside of those currently included within the geographic scope of the MOU.
- b. At MOS2, 11 species of Old World vulture were added to Annex 1 of the Raptors MOU. The known distributions of these species include nine countries that are not currently considered Range States to the MOU – see Annex 1 to this document.
- c. A recently published scientific review of the *State of the world's raptors: Distributions, threats, and conservation recommendations*² specifically highlighted South and Southeast Asia as the region of the world hosting the highest diversity of birds of prey, but also the area where the most threatened and declining raptor species exist.
- d. During day-to-day communications with the Coordinating Unit, including as part of the development of the Multi-species Action Plan to Conserve African-Eurasian Vultures (Vulture MsAP), a number of correspondents located in certain East and Southeast Asian countries (not included in Annex 2 of the MOU) have questioned why their state is currently excluded from the Raptors MOU.

3. In light of the above, TAG is invited to consider what, if any, technical or practical benefits might accrue from extending the geographic scope of the Raptors MOU. And also to suggest criteria that could be applied to identify those countries to which the geographic range of the MOU could be

¹ https://www.cms.int/raptors/sites/default/files/basic_page_documents/raptors-mou_annex2_scope_e.pdf

² <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0006320718305871#f0025>

extended to promote and enhance effective implementation of the raptor conservation measures set out in the Action Plan (Annex 3) of the MOU.

4. The outcomes of the deliberations by TAG is anticipated to form the basis for a document to be presented to Signatories of the Raptors MOU at their next MOS.

Action requested

TAG is requested to:

- a) Consider what, if any, technical or practical benefits might accrue from extending the geographic scope of the Raptors MOU;
- b) Suggest criteria that could be applied to identify those countries to which the geographic range of the MOU could be extended to enhance the effectiveness of the MOU; and
- c) Assess the implications of the proposed criteria by compiling a list of Range States that should be considered for inclusion with in the geographic range of the Raptors MOU at MOS3.

Annex 1: List of countries occupied by species added to Annex 1 of the MOU (at MOS2 in 2015), that currently fall outside the geographic scope of the Raptors MoU

| <i>Country</i> | <i>Species added to Annex 1 at MOS2</i> |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Brunei Darussalam | White-rumped Vulture |
| Cambodia | Red-headed Vulture, Himalayan Griffon, White-rumped Vulture, Slender-billed Vulture, Cinereous Vulture |
| Korea (Democratic People's Republic of) | Egyptian Vulture, Cinereous Vulture |
| Korea (Republic of) | Egyptian Vulture, Cinereous Vulture |
| Lao (People's Democratic Republic) | Himalayan Griffon |
| Malaysia | Himalayan Griffon |
| Philippines | Cinereous Vulture |
| Singapore | Himalayan Griffon |
| Thailand | Himalayan Griffon |