



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

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

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL STRATEGIES

Prepared by the Interim Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MoU

Guidelines for Preparing National and Regional Raptor Conservation and Management Strategies

1. According to the provisions of Paragraph 12 of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors MoU)¹, '*[w]ithin two years of this Memorandum of Understanding becoming effective, Signatories will aim to prepare and submit to the Interim Coordinating Unit where appropriate a national or regional (e.g. EU) strategy or equivalent documents (e.g. Single Species Action Plans) for category 1 and, where appropriate, category 2 species in Table 1 in the Action Plan [Annex 3 to the MoU]*'.
2. Paragraph 16 of the Raptors MoU states that: '*The Coordinating Unit will make available to all Signatories all of the strategies and equivalent documents it receives.*'
3. In July 2010, an initial draft of a set of Guidelines was prepared and circulated by the ICU for the purpose of proposing a standard format for National or Regional Raptor Conservation and Management Strategies, and to promote strategic raptor conservation planning and subsequent implementation.
4. During an extensive consultation period, the following Signatories contributed to the draft: Hungary, Madagascar, Morocco, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Togo, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom (UK). In addition, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), UK and one external independent expert also provided valuable feedback.
5. Based on these comments, the original draft was fully revised and amended. A more limited consultation exercise was carried out on this second draft during May 2012, resulting in further improvements being suggested by the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, Birdlife International (Belgium) and RSPB (UK).
6. After incorporating these latest amendments, the final version of the '*Guidelines for Preparing National and Regional Raptor Conservation and Management Strategies*' (CMS/Raptors/MoS1/Inf. 12) was circulated to Signatories and published on the Raptors MoU website in June 2012. The document is structured into nine main Chapters - Introduction, General information, Biological Assessment, Conservation Approach, Existing and potential sources of funding, Conclusions, Further recommendations, References and Annexes with data summary tables. A blank form was also created as a separate document in an effort to facilitate the process of strategy development by Signatories.
7. The Guidelines document has been well received by Signatories. For example, the European Union commented '*[t]he 'Guidelines[...]' provide all the information needed at this moment*'.

¹ The Raptors MoU came into effect on 1 November 2008.

Development of National or Regional Strategies by Signatories

8. At the same time as the Guidelines were published, the ICU wrote to all Signatories seeking an update on the state of preparations of their National or Regional Strategies.

9. Sixteen Signatories responded and their replies are compiled in Annex I.

10. **Madagascar** confirmed that a National Strategy for Raptor Conservation had been compiled. The ICU is awaiting receipt of a copy of this document. **Hungary** provided a detailed report of extensive work already undertaken, particularly in relation to Single Species Action Plans. They consider that their existing plans fully satisfy the requirements of the Raptors MoU, so they have no plans to prepare a strategy and/or further species actions plans for raptors.

11. **France, Guinea, Norway, Mongolia, Slovakia** and the **United Arab Emirates** reported that work had begun to develop their National Strategies. Both **France** and **Guinea** anticipated that their documents would be completed by the 1st Meeting of Signatories in December 2012. Whereas, **Angola, Germany** and **Pakistan** advised of their intention to incorporate measures to conserve raptors into their wider National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs).

12. The **European Commission** confirmed that a Regional Strategy for the European Union and its Member States is planned. A consultation process has begun and it is envisaged that the EU strategy will be finalized before the end of 2013, i.e. within two years of becoming a Signatory to the Raptors MoU (22 November 2011). **Netherlands** and the **United Kingdom** confirmed that they will be contributing to the EU Regional Strategy.

13. Technical and/or financial assistance was requested from **Congo, Guinea, Mongolia** and **Senegal** to assist them in preparing their National Strategies.

14. National or Regional Strategies are the fundamental basis on which to implement the Action Plan in the Raptors MoU. These strategies should also include measureable targets and/or outcomes, which will underpin the National reporting process. Several Signatories have requested copies of existing Strategies to assist with their own preparations. The ICU stands ready to promptly circulate any Strategies it receives, in line with the obligation set out in Paragraph 16 of the Raptors MoU.

15. To date (November 2012), no Strategies have been submitted by Signatories to the ICU. The originally agreed two-year deadline (Paragraph 12 of the text of the Raptors MoU) has therefore been exceeded by the majority of Signatories, namely those 30 States that signed before November 2010. The remaining 10 Signatories have signed the Raptors MoU within the last 12 months.

Actions requested:

The Meeting is invited to consider identifying ways in which to promote effective strategic planning by Signatories, as envisaged by the Raptors MoU. Key questions and issues to address include:

- a) What are the main causes of the delays in the development of National or Regional Strategies by Signatories?
- b) What action needs to be taken, and by whom, to address these challenges?
- c) What mechanisms can be made available to support Signatories in this fundamentally important strategic planning process?
- d) Consider establishing new deadlines for Signatories to develop and submit their National or Regional Strategies to the Coordinating Unit.
- e) Consider tasking the Technical Advisory Group (if established) to ensure that the future National Reporting requirements are directly interlinked with the strategic planning process.