



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

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NATIONAL REPORTING BY SIGNATORIES

Prepared by the Interim Coordinating Unit

1. The availability of up-to-date and strategically relevant information has proven to be a key challenge amongst Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements, including the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and its instruments.
2. Nonetheless, such information is critical to underpin the communication, coordination and collaboration required to ensure effective implementation of conservation actions aimed at migratory species, including those contained in the Action Plan (Table 2 of Annex 3) in the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors MoU).
3. It should be noted that CMS Resolution 10.9 on the Future Structure and Strategies of the CMS and CMS Family¹ calls for the *'harmonization and interoperability of information management and reporting systems where appropriate and applicable for the CMS Family'*. This includes reducing duplication of reporting, properly analysing and comparing data, and improving its collection, storage, management and retrieval.
4. CMS Resolution 9.4 on the Future of National Reports² requests the Secretariat to advance harmonisation of reporting with other international biodiversity agreements through the development of common reporting modules, via the framework of the Biodiversity Liaison Group in consultation with UNEP-WCMC. The Resolution further requests the Secretariats and Signatories of CMS instruments, to collaborate in the implementation and harmonization of online reporting.
5. According to Paragraph 15 of the Raptors MoU, *'[t]he first session [of the meeting of Signatories] will also adopt a format for and schedule of regular progress reports on implementing the [National or Regional] strategies or equivalent measures'*.
6. The CMS Family has developed an Online Reporting System (ORS) which streamlines the national reporting process, makes it more efficient for the Parties and Signatories and also provides a basis for easier analyses of datasets. The ORS was developed by UNEP-WCMC, in close cooperation with the AEWASecretariat. It has been designed specifically to be adaptable to meet the requirements of the whole family of CMS instruments, including the Raptors MoU.
7. The ORS offers significant benefits, such as:
 - To improve information quality, consistency and transparency;

¹ http://www.cms.int/bodies/COP/cop10/resolutions_adopted/10_09_future_shape_e.pdf

² http://www.cms.int/bodies/COP/cop9/Report%20COP9/Res&Recs/E/Res_9_04_Future_National_Report_En.pdf

- To improve efficiency of information management for the Secretariats, Parties, Signatories and the public;
- To reduce costs of information systems development for Secretariats (by sharing resources) and the reporting costs for Parties and Signatories; and,
- To improve linkages and sharing of information with Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements, environmental monitoring agencies, major data custodians, regional treaties and the public.

8. Effective National Reporting should be based on a range of key principles such as:

- Clear, user-friendly and economic mechanisms for data capture;
- Consistent, standardised and harmonised format to promote high data quality;
- Information directly interlinked to specific measurable targets or outcomes;
- Safe and secure long-term storage, including backing-up of data;
- Readily available for use with comprehensive analytical tools;
- Freely accessible by all those who wish to use these data.

9. Accurate National Reporting requires both commitment and significant resources to be deployed by Governments. It would seem appropriate to develop a reporting schedule for the Raptors MoU that aligns with the proposed 3-yearly cycle of Meetings of Signatories (MoSs) and takes into account planned sessions of the Conferences of Parties to CMS. A reporting deadline set midway between MoSs would allow for the National Reports to be compiled, analysed and distributed to Signatories by the Coordinating Unit, in good time for the results to be considered by the next Meeting.

10. National or Regional Strategies represent the fundamental basis on which to implement the Action Plan in the Raptors MoU. These strategies should also include measurable targets and/or outcomes, which will underpin the National reporting process. In that absence of any National or Regional Strategies, the Interim Coordinating Unit (ICU) of the Raptors MoU proposes that Signatories aim to agree at MoS1 a set of basic principles on which the National Reporting will be based, and including a timeframe for adoption of the ORS.

11. With this framework in place, Signatories may wish to task the Technical Advisory Group (if established) to work with the ICU to develop a detailed format for National Reports. The aim being for all Signatories to trial the format for their National Reports to be submitted in advance of MoS2. The format could then be formally adopted at MoS2 for future reporting cycles.

Assessment of the implementation of the Action Plan of the Raptors MoU

12. Paragraph 16 of the Raptors MoU states that '*[t]he Coordinating Unit will make available to all Signatories all of the strategies and equivalent documents it receives, prepare an overview of progress in implementation of the Action Plan six months before the second and subsequent sessions [of the Meeting of Signatories]*'.

13. To date, no National or Regional Strategies have been submitted to the ICU by Signatories, hence it has not been possible to undertake an assessment of the implementation of the Action Plan. However, the ICU designed and developed a short on-line Update Form in English and French (Annex I) and circulated the two weblinks to Signatories in October 2012. The twelve-point questionnaire was designed to gather some basic information covering the six key Activities set out in the Action Plan of the Raptors MoU. The overall aim was to provide Signatories with an opportunity to highlight some of their key completed, ongoing or planned raptor conservation initiatives.

14. A total of 12 Signatories replied and completed the Update Form, as follows: Congo, Denmark, France, Germany, Ghana, Hungary, Madagascar, Monaco, Pakistan, Romania, Slovakia and the United Kingdom. Copies of the responses are included in Annex II.

15. In addition, Pakistan submitted a completed 'In-Country National Level Report Form' to the ICU on 14 November 2012 (see Annex III). This was a form that was issued in advance of the meeting to conclude

negotiations for the Raptors MoU held in Abu Dhabi in October 2008. Angola also advised in an email dated 17 October 2012 of their intention to submit a National Report at the 1st Meeting of Signatories in December 2012.

16. Finally, the ICU noted that many of the National Reports prepared in advance of the 10th Conference of Parties (COP10) to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) contained references relating to migratory birds of prey covered by the Raptors MoU. Accordingly, Annex IV contains weblinks to all of the National Reports submitted to CMS in advance of COP10 by Signatories of the Raptors MoU.

Action requested

The meeting is invited to:

- a) Agree the basic principles on which National Reporting for the Raptors MoU should be based, including a timeframe for adoption of the ORS.
- b) Agree a regular schedule for National Reporting.
- c) Consider tasking the Technical Advisory Group (if established) to work intersessionally to develop a format for National reporting, which Signatories can pilot for the planned reporting cycle in advance of MoS2.
- d) Note the raptor conservation activities of Signatories highlighted in Annexes II, III and IV.