



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

Distribution: General

CMS/Raptors/MoS1/
Doc.13.1

Rev.1 - 22 Nov 2012

Original: English

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

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COORDINATING UNIT

Prepared by the Interim Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MoU

1. Paragraph 16 of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors MoU) states that *'at its first session, the Meeting of the Signatories in collaboration with the Secretariat will establish a Coordinating Unit which will assist communication, encourage reporting and facilitate activities between and among Signatories, other interested States and organisations'* and also that *'the Coordinating Unit will be based in the office of an appropriate national, regional, or international organisation as agreed by consensus of the Signatories at their first session, after consideration of all offers received'*.
2. The UNEP/CMS Office - Abu Dhabi was formally established in December 2008, when the 9th CMS Conference of Parties accepted a proposal submitted by the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD), on behalf of the Government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), to host an out-posted Office of the UNEP/CMS Secretariat, aimed at servicing the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Dugongs and their Habitats throughout their Range and the Raptors MoU.
3. The Interim Coordinating Unit (ICU) for the Raptors MoU began practical operations following recruitment of a Programme Officer (Birds) in August 2009. Unfortunately, the post-holder left unexpectedly after a short time and the position was vacant until the appointment of the current Programme Officer, who joined the ICU at the end of October 2011.
4. A Donor Agreement was signed between UNEP and EAD in October 2009 which provided US\$ 3.6 million to fund the operation of the UNEP/CMS Office - Abu Dhabi for the period from July 2009 to June 2012. This Donor Agreement was extended in December 2011 by a grant of US\$ 4 million to fund the Office for a further three years from July 2012 to June 2015. This extension to the Donor Agreement also includes a pledge by EAD of a similar amount to cover operation of the UNEP/CMS Office – Abu Dhabi for the following triennium (2015-2018) and beyond, subject to a review of the budget in 2014.
5. The UNEP/CMS Office - Abu Dhabi represents a major collaboration between UNEP/CMS and the UAE to conserve migratory species. The main objectives of the Office are to service and administer secretariat functions related to the two MoUs, including implementation of their respective Action Plans, communication and coordination between Range States and supporting partners, promotion of conservation projects/programmes, provision of technical expertise and development of capacity building initiatives.
6. To date, no other offers to host the Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MoU have been received.

Action requested:

The Meeting is invited to accept the generous offer from EAD, on behalf of the Government of the UAE, and to establish the Coordinating Unit at the UNEP/CMS Office - Abu Dhabi.

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