



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

Distribution: General

CMS/Raptors/MoS1/
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1ST MEETING OF SIGNATORIES
Abu Dhabi, UAE, 9-11 December 2012

ESTABLISHMENT OF A TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP FOR THE RAPTORS MOU

1. The Raptors MoU came into force on 1 November 2008 and as at 1 October 2012 had attracted 40 Signatories (39 Range States and the European Union) and 3 Co-operating Partners. Coverage of this instrument extends to 76 species of migratory birds of prey occurring in 130 Range States within Africa and Eurasia.
2. Similar CMS instruments have established some form of technical and/or advisory body, including regional representation, to provide advice to Signatories to promote and support implementation.
3. The Interim Coordinating Unit (ICU) of the Raptors MoU has reached the considered view that effective implementation of this complex and extensive CMS instrument would benefit significantly from the establishment of a Technical Advisory Group (TAG). For example, the '2012 Update of the scientific data underpinning the Raptors MoU', commissioned by the ICU and carried out by BirdLife International (CMS/Raptors/MoS1/Inf13.3), contains a number of proposals, many of which are highly technical in nature, that require careful consideration by Signatories.
4. The TAG would act intersessionally between the Meetings of Signatories to commission and/or review such documents in advance of meetings, and to provide recommendations for consideration by the Signatories.
5. It would also serve to assist Signatories to exchange the scientific and technical information needed to co-ordinate conservation measures, including developing co-operative research projects, in line with Paragraph 19 of the text of the MoU.

Action requested:

The Meeting is invited to:

- a) Consider establishing a Technical Advisory Group to support and assist them in the effective and timely implementation of the Raptors MoU.
- b) Consider the attached Terms of Reference for a TAG for adoption at MoS1.
- c) Consider electing representatives to serve on the TAG before the conclusion of MoS1.
- d) Identify specific tasks for the TAG to address following the conclusion of MoS1.