



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

PROCEDURES FOR AMENDING THE MOU TEXT AND ITS ANNEXES

Prepared by the Interim Coordinating Unit

1. According to paragraph 22 of the Raptors MoU, the ‘*Memorandum of Understanding may be amended at any Meeting of the Signatories. Any amendment adopted will become effective on the date of its adoption by the Meeting by consensus*’. Furthermore, according to paragraph 15, ‘*[a]t its first session the meeting will adopt a procedure for amending the Annexes to the Memorandum of Understanding*’.
2. Annexes to the Raptors MoU are the List of African-Eurasian Migratory Birds of Prey (Annex 1), a Map of the area covered by the instrument (Annex 2) and the Action Plan for the conservation of migratory birds of prey in Africa and Eurasia (Annex 3).
3. The Action Plan includes three Tables, as follows: Categorisation of species covered by the Action Plan (Table 1); Activities to be carried out under paragraph 5 of the Action Plan (Table 2); and, the Provisional List of Important Bird Areas for migratory birds of prey (Table 3).

Proposed procedure for modifying the MoU text and its Annexes

- (a) The MoU text and its Annexes may be modified by consensus at any session of the Meeting of the Signatories (MoS).
- (b) Proposals for modification may be made by a Signatory only.
- (c) The process and timing for submission should be as follows:
 - i. Signatories should provide the text of any proposed modification and the reasons for it, including, if appropriate, supporting scientific evidence, to the Coordinating Unit at least 150 days before a MoS.
 - ii. The Coordinating Unit is expected to promptly communicate the proposal to all Signatories, and, in the case of technical amendments, also to the Technical Advisory Group (TAG), if established.
 - iii. The Signatories should provide any comments on the text to the Coordinating Unit at least 60 days before the MoS begins.
 - iv. The Coordinating Unit is expected to communicate such comments to the Signatories as soon as possible after receipt.
 - v. Signatories have the right to refuse consideration of any proposed modification that is submitted to the Coordinating Unit later than the timeframes referred to in this paragraph.

Additional process for amendments to the geographic, species and sites coverage

4. The ‘*2012 Update of the scientific data underpinning the UNEP/CMS Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey (Raptors MoU)*’ (Inf. 13.3) commissioned by the Interim

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Coordinating Unit and carried out by BirdLife International, highlights a number of tasks on which further detailed technical consideration is required.

5. It is proposed that Signatories consider tasking the Technical Advisory Group (subject to it being established) to consider the proposals largely contained in the 2012 Update Report, as follows:

- a. Geographic coverage;
- b. Definition of a 'migratory' species in the context of birds of prey;
- c. Species coverage, particularly in terms of taxonomy and nomenclature;
- d. Review Annex I, in light of the outcomes of Items a. – c. above;
- e. Review Categories 1, 2 and 3, in Table 1 of the Action Plan;
- f. Review the proposals for amendments to extend the list of Important Bird Areas consider significant for migratory birds of prey (Table 3 of the Action Plan);
- g. Develop a standard format for Signatories to use to submit species-related up-listing or down-listing proposals.

6. The aim would be for the TAG to provide detailed Recommendations for Signatories to consider at the 2nd Meeting of Signatories (MoS2).

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to:

- a) Adopt the proposed procedure for modifying the Raptors MoU text and its Annexes.
- b) Task the Technical Advisory Group to consider the above listed tasks intersessionally, and to provide Recommendations to Signatories in advance of MoS2.