



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

COOPERATING PARTNERS

Prepared by the Interim Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MoU

1. According to paragraph 27 of the Raptors MoU, *‘Inter-Governmental and international and national non-governmental organisations may associate themselves with this Memorandum of Understanding through their signature as co-operating partners, in particular with the implementation of the Action Plan in accordance with Article VII, paragraph 9 of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species’*.
2. At the Meeting to Conclude the Raptors MoU in October 2008, the intersessional working group in administrative and financial matters recommended (UNEP/CMS/AEBOP/2/8/Rev.1¹) that *“co-operating partners” (i.e. signatories to the MoU that are not range states) indicate the type of contribution, whether financial or other, they will make to the implementation of the MoU when signing the agreement’*. It also reported that the role of non-Governmental Organisations *‘in helping to implement the agreement cannot be underestimated’*, because they *‘play a key role in delivering action at local and regional scale, providing vital information on the status of species and providing expert advice’*.
3. Currently the Raptors MoU lists the following Cooperating Partners that could potentially sign the MoU: **CMS Secretariat** (signed), Armenian Society for the Protection of Birds, Azerbaijan Ornithological Society, **BirdLife International** (signed), Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the EU (FACE), **International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey** (signed), International Fund for Animal Welfare, International Wildlife Consultants (UK) Ltd, Russian Bird Conservation Union, and Wildlife Science and Conservation Center of Mongolia. This list apparently includes all those organisations represented at the final negotiating meeting held in October 2008.
4. The purpose of this current document is to agree a procedure for accepting new Cooperating Partners to sign the Raptors MoU. A proposed procedure, based on the aim of securing consensus, follows:
5. An expression of interest to sign the Raptors MoU should be sent to the Coordinating Unit, signed by the Head of the organization, containing information about the organization’s aim and work. It should also indicate the type of contribution, whether financial or other, to be made to the implementation of the MoU. Expressions of interest could be sent at any time.
6. The Coordinating Unit will review each complete expression of interest and circulate a recommendation to Signatories within 30 days of having received it. If no objections are forthcoming from any Signatory within 30 days of sending out the communication, the organisation will be invited to sign the MoU and the Coordinating Unit will make the necessary arrangements.
7. If, however, any objections are received from one or more Signatories, the Coordinating Unit will

¹ http://www.cms.int/bodies/meetings/regional/birdsofprey/Doc_08_Rev1_Rpt_WG_Admn&Financial_E.pdf

collect and collate these up to the end of the 30 day consultation period. Within a further 30 days from that point, the Coordinating Unit will reconsider the case and circulate a further recommendation to Signatories, including full details of the objection(s) received. If no objections are forthcoming from any Signatory within 30 days of sending out the communication, the organisation will be invited to sign the MoU and the Coordinating Unit will make the necessary arrangements. If, however, any objections are received from any Signatory within the 30-day period, the Coordinating Unit will advise the organisation that their application has been rejected.

8. The following roles are envisaged for Cooperating Partners of the Raptors MoU:

- To actively support and promote the implementation of the MoU and its objectives, and in particular, the Action Plan. This could be achieved via, for example, publications, outreach activities, conservation projects, research and/or promotion of the MoU in relevant fora.
- To report back to each MoS on activities carried out in collaboration and/or support of the MoU, and in particular the Action Plan.
- To consider establishing joint or collaborative workplans or projects with Signatories and/or the Coordinating Unit.
- To attend and participate at sessions of the Meeting of Signatories as an Observer.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to:

- a) Agree on the authorization process for Cooperating Partners.
- b) Agree on the proposed role of Cooperating Partners.