



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

Distribution: General

CMS/Raptors/MoS1/
Doc.14.1

05 December 2012

Original: English

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

CURRENT FINANCIAL STATUS AND FUTURE FUNDING

Prepared by the Interim Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MoU

1. At the Meeting to Conclude the Raptors MoU in October 2008, the Intersessional Working Group on Administrative and Financial Matters reported (UNEP/CMS/AEBOP/2/8/Rev.1¹) that ‘*an indicative level of contributions should be agreed at the first Meeting of the Signatories after the MoU comes into force*’, and that ‘*[t]his could be based on a methodology linked to the UN Scale of Assessments*’.² The Working Group also noted, however, that ‘*the extent of contributions could be heavily affected by a decision by one or more Range States to substantially fund the agreement*’.
2. Since establishment in August 2009, the Interim Coordinating Unit (ICU) of the Raptors MoU has been solely and generously funded by the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD), on behalf of the Government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The funding granted for the UNEP/CMS Office - Abu Dhabi to cover the 2012-2015 triennium is US\$ 4 million, with a similar amount pledged for the following triennium ending in 2018, subject to a review in 2014. These amounts include support for the Secretariat to the UNEP/CMS Dugong MoU.
3. Table 1 (CMS/Raptors/MoS1/Doc.14.1/Annex I) presents a Summarised Statement of Expenditure for the ICU for the first triennium (2009-2012). It has been compiled using a standard 50:50 ratios for costs shared between the Raptors and Dugong MoUs. Table 2 (CMS/Raptors/MoS1/Doc.14.1/Annex I) presents an Indicative Budget for the ICU for the 2012-2015 triennium.
4. The purpose of this current document is to invite Signatories to identify opportunities for additional sources of funding to enhance the resources available to the Coordinating Unit to provide increased support for the implementation of the Action Plan of the Raptors MoU.
5. According to paragraph 20 of the Raptors MoU, ‘*[t]he Signatories will endeavour to finance from national and other sources the implementation in their territory of the measures necessary for the conservation of birds of prey. In addition, they will endeavor to assist each other in the implementation and financing of key points of the Action Plan, and seek assistance from other sources for the financing and implementation of their strategies or equivalent measures*’.
6. A number Signatories have requested funding from the Interim Coordinating Unit (ICU) to be able to prepare their National Raptor Conservation and Management Strategies. These could potentially be supported by voluntary contributions from other Signatories. To date the ICU has restricted use of its finite resources to primarily supporting international collaborative activities, as opposed to national projects.
7. As an essential tool to support the implementation of the Convention, CMS created a Small Grants Programme. Revised Guidelines for the operation of the Programme were adopted by the 10th Conference

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

² Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations (A/RES/64/248).

of the Parties (UNEP/CMS/Conf.10.43). Similarly, the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) has launched its Small Grant Fund for the Conservation of Migratory Waterbirds and their Habitats. For the most recent call for applications for the CMS Small Grant Programme, posted in March 2012, there were eight raptor-related project proposals (CMS/Raptors/MoS1/Doc.14.1/Annex II). Despite the general high quality of the proposals, due to the large number of applications received, only one raptor project was selected amongst the eight proposals that were granted support.

8. As reported in CMS/Raptors/MoS1/Doc.9, the ICU has conducted various proactive fundraising efforts to raise additional resources to enhance its capacity to implement the Raptors MoU. During 2012, project funding proposals have been developed and submitted, as follows:

- a) Ford Motor Company's Conservation and Environmental Grant Programme (Middle East) – proposal for research to fill a knowledge gap on the use of Saker Falcons in falconry (July).
- b) Department for Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), United Kingdom, International Biodiversity Grants Scheme – four separate proposals relating to: support for Hosting the 1st Meeting of Signatories; the Saker Falcon Task Force; mitigating impacts of Power Grids; and, establishing a Sooty Falcon Working Group (August).
- c) Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany – proposal to modify or replace 30 km of power lines near Port Sudan in Sudan, which has caused the death of many hundreds, perhaps even thousands, of Egyptian Vultures, and other species (September).
- d) Saudi Wildlife Authority (SWA), Kingdom of Saudi Arabia – proposal relating to research to fill knowledge gaps in preparation for the planned Workshop to develop the Global Action Plan for the Saker Falcon (May, with revisions in September).
- e) EU thematic programme for Environment and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources including Energy (ENRTP) – proposal to support the planned Workshop to develop the Global Action Plan for the Saker Falcon (October).
- f) CITES Secretariat – proposal relating to the trade and sustainable use aspects of the Saker Falcon issue (October).

9. To date (November 2012) the following three Proposals have been successful, but final outcomes are still awaited for the other three projects listed above (a, c, and f).

Successful Project Proposals	Amount (US \$)	Source of Contribution
1 st Meeting of Signatories in December 2012	56,000	Defra, United Kingdom
Global Action Plan for the Saker Falcon	100,000	ENRTP (European Commission)
Saker Falcon – research to fill knowledge gaps	60,000	SWA, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Total	216,000	

10. Mechanisms to secure additional resources to enhance the capacity of the Coordinating Unit to implement the Action Plan in the future could include:

- a) **Ad hoc voluntary contributions from Signatories:** Based on the experience of other secretariats within the CMS Family, it is apparent that without adequate and predictable resources, agreements are unable to deliver upon their most fundamental objectives. Reliance on *ad hoc* voluntary contributions has by and large proved untenable, particularly due to the difficulty of entering into long-term contractual arrangements, such as for staffing. However, the Raptors MoU has been granted a sound basic funding package for the next 3 years (and, in additionally, a pledge for the following triennium) so *ad hoc* voluntary contributions may be considered by Signatories as a particularly attractive option in that funds could be applied directly at topics of specific interest.
- b) **Regular Voluntary Contributions from Signatories based on an indicative scale:** An agreed budget could be apportioned among Signatories, on a voluntary basis, according to the United Nations (UN) Scale of Assessment. This approach has been adopted by the CMS Indian Ocean - South-East Asian (IOSEA) Marine Turtle MoU at its most recent Meeting of Signatories in January 2012. As an example, CMS/Raptors/MoS1/Doc.14.1/Annex III provides an indication of

the annual contribution for each Signatory to the Raptors MoU for a figure of US\$ 200,000. The contributions have been calculated using the UN General Assembly agreed scale of contributions (A/Res/64/248). However, following the practice adopted by many of the CMS instruments, the maximum contribution is capped at 20% of the overall budget and the contribution of the European Union has been fixed at 2.5%. In addition, a minimum contribution of €3,000 per Signatory has been introduced in line with practices adopted by AEWA, the Gorilla Agreement, and the IOSEA MoU. For reference, CMS/Raptors/MoS1/Doc.14.1/Annex IV shows another worked example using US\$ 650,000 as the target annual amount, which is the approximate figure currently being donated by the EAD, on behalf of the Government of the UAE.

- c) **Concerted programme of fundraising:** To date the ICU has absorbed the previously described fundraising activities within normal day-to-day administrative activities. By establishing a part or full-time Fundraising Officer via a consultancy would create the capacity required to establish a more strategic programme of proposals and initiatives aimed at securing six or seven figure sums. Some exploratory work has already been carried out in conjunction with the Secretariat of the Dugongs MoU but more resources are required to take this activity forward.
- d) **In-kind contributions:** The Intersessional Working Group on Administrative and Financial Matters reported that in-kind contributions should be considered as a substitute for financial payments. In-kind contributions may include donating equipment, services or offering to loan staff for free to work in the Coordinating Unit. Individuals selected would have the opportunity to gain unique experience which could be a valuable asset to their parent organization on their return, as well as providing important personal development opportunities. With modern communication technology it is realistic to consider the option of remote-working, i.e. staff remaining based at the parent organization in the home country and thus saving travel and accommodation costs associated with a posting to the Coordinating Unit in Abu Dhabi.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to note the statement in paragraph 20 of the text of the Raptors MoU and to:

- a) Consider and adopt additional resourcing options to enable enhanced implementation of the Action Plan.
- b) Agree on mechanisms to support certain Signatories with the development of their National Strategies under the Raptors MoU.
- c) Consider establishing a Small Grants Programme under the Raptors MoU, which could be administered by the Coordinating Unit and with the selection of successful proposals being led by the Technical Advisory Group (if established).