



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

Distribution: General

CMS/Raptors/MoS1/
Doc.14.2

24 Oct 2012

Original: English

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

ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONVENING MEETINGS OF SIGNATORIES

Prepared by the Interim Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MoU

1. As per Paragraph 13 of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors MoU), the Meeting of Signatories is the decision-making body. Paragraph 13 also states that *'Meetings will be arranged wherever possible to coincide with other appropriate gatherings where the relevant representatives will be present'* and Paragraph 15 continues: *'At its first session the meeting will [...] make such arrangements as may be necessary for convening subsequent sessions of the Meeting of Signatories'*. Based on the above, the proposed arrangements for convening Meetings of Signatories are set out below.
2. Recognising the significant direct costs and other resources required to organise these meetings, ordinary sessions of the Meeting of Signatories (MoS) shall be held at approximately three-yearly intervals, unless the MoS decides otherwise.
3. At each ordinary session, the MoS shall determine the venue of the next ordinary session. The exact dates and duration of each ordinary session shall be established by the Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MoU, in consultation with the CMS Secretariat and the host country of the Meeting.
4. A MoS shall take place in the country chosen by the previous MoS on the basis of a formal invitation that should be issued to this effect by the responsible authority of that country to the Coordinating Unit. If more than one Signatory issue an invitation to host the next MoS, and two or more are maintained after informal consultations, the MoS shall decide the venue of the next meeting.
5. If no invitation has been received, the session of the MoS shall be held in the country where either the Coordinating Unit or the CMS Secretariat is located, unless other appropriate arrangements are made by the Coordinating Unit in consultation with the CMS Secretariat.
6. Extraordinary sessions of the MoS shall be convened either on written request of at least one third of the Signatories or by a request from the Chair on behalf of the Technical Advisory Group (if established). An extraordinary session shall be convened no later than 90 days after a request has been received.
7. Obligations of a Host Country for sessions of the MoS shall follow standard UN Rules, unless otherwise negotiated with the Coordinating Unit in consultation with the CMS Secretariat.
8. The Coordinating Unit shall notify all Signatories of the venue and the preferred dates of an ordinary session of the MoS at least 6 months before the session is due to commence. The Notification shall include a deadline for submission of proposals to be discussed at the meeting.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to consider and adopt the proposed arrangements.

For reasons of economy, this document is printed in a limited number, and will not be distributed at the meeting. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copy to the meeting and not to request additional copies.