



Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia

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ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP

Prepared by the Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MoU

Introduction

1. An Interim Technical Advisory Group (TAG) was established at the First Meeting of Signatories (MoS1) to the Raptors MoU as a technical advisory body to provide expert advice, information and to make recommendations on the implementation of the MoU to Signatories and the Coordinating Unit.
2. According to the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the TAG (UNEP/CMS/Raptors/MOS2/Inf.2), adopted at MoS1, all members of the Interim TAG would serve until the Second Meeting of Signatories (MoS2). In March 2015, the Coordinating Unit circulated a call for nominations amongst Signatories and Co-operating Partners for raptor specialists to serve on the TAG to be established at MoS2. In total, 17 nominations were received by the deadline of 8 April 2015 – the timescale designated in the ToR of 180 days before the forthcoming MoS.
3. Paragraph 10 c) of the ToR describes the procedure to establish the TAG at MoS2 and future meetings of Signatories, including that: *'[...] The regional representatives and other experts will be appointed by the MoS at the recommendation of a Panel which shall comprise the current Chair and Vice-chair of the TAG, and the CU's Programme Officer and Executive Coordinator. The Panel will be chaired by the TAG Chair'*. Accordingly, a selection Panel was established comprising Prof. Des Thompson, Dr. Sàlim Javed, Mr. Nick P. Williams and Mr. Lyle Glowka.
4. The selection Panel convened via two meetings held on 17 and 26 August 2015. This document contains the report and recommendations that emerged from the Panel's deliberations. The assessment process followed that set out in the ToR, which also outlines the purpose and main tasks, size and composition, nomination and appointment of members, officers, and the *modus operandi* of the TAG.

Size and composition

5. Paragraph 5 of the TAG Terms of Reference states that: *'Membership of the TAG shall comprise persons operating in their personal capacity, and qualified as specialists in raptor research, conservation and/or management. In appointing persons to the TAG, the MoS should strive to achieve a balance amongst areas of expertise especially in the context of delivery of advice requested of it, and the need for representation of those geographic regions with few Signatories'*.
6. And paragraph 6 of the TAG Terms of Reference provides the following guidance concerning the size and composition of TAG:

- a) '10 members nominated by Signatories from the four main geo-political regions covered by the Raptors MoU, namely: Africa (excluding North Africa) – three representatives; Asia – two representatives; Europe – three representatives; and, the Middle East and North Africa – two representatives;
- b) Up to five other experts;
- c) One person nominated by BirdLife International – the IUCN nominated authority on birds; and,
- d) To promote synergies and co-operation, observers from the African-Eurasian Waterbirds Technical Committee, the CMS Landbirds Action Plan and Co-operating Partners may attend at their own cost'.

Approach and assessment criteria

7. As part of the UN commitment to fairness, equal opportunity and diversity, all candidates were treated in exactly the same way throughout all aspects of the assessment process. Each of the nominations was assessed and scored based on the six criteria described below. In addition, in line with Rule 14(3) of the Rules of Procedure adopted by Signatories at MoS1 of the Raptors MoU (UNEP/CMS/Raptors/MOS2/3), the Panel satisfied itself that all the nominations could communicate effectively in English, which is the working language of TAG. At the outset the selection Panel also agreed to assume that all candidates met two basic criteria established in the ToR, as follows:

- *Full access to electronic mail and web-based information and communication systems, through which the inter-sessional work of the TAG will take place; and,*
- *Commitment to undertake the work required of the TAG with the support, where relevant, of the member's organization or institution.*
- **Networking:** Demonstrated capacity for networking with other experts in raptor research, conservation and/or management of species and their habitats at a local, national and international scale, and demonstrated engagement in such expert networks. **Scoring was from 1** (no data provided or irrelevant to raptor conservation) to 5 (member of any association related with raptor conservation at international scale and demonstrated engagement in such expert networks).
- **Recognized expertise:** Widely recognized experience and expertise in one or more aspects of raptor research, conservation and/or management of species and their habitats, particularly to the work of the TAG. **Scoring was from 1** (no data provided or irrelevant for raptor conservation) to 5 (at international scale and in relevant subjects for raptor research, conservation and/or management of species and their habitats).
- **Work experience:** Experience working with raptors, conservation and/or management of species and their habitats, particularly those relevant to the work of the TAG. **Scoring was from 1** (no data provided or irrelevant to raptor conservation) to 5 (experience at the international scale relevant to raptor conservation and/or management of species and their habitats).
- **Education:** University level or higher education related to raptor conservation and/or management of species and their habitat. **Scoring was from 1** (no data provided or irrelevant to raptor conservation) to 5 (university level or higher education related to raptor conservation and/or management of their habitats).
- **Multi-level working:** Professional experience at different levels (local (regional), national and international) and displaying different low, medium and /or high level roles related to raptor

conservation or habitat management. **Scoring was from 1** (at local (regional) level) to 5 (at international level, including decision making roles).

- **Publications on raptors:** Relevance to raptor conservation and/or management of species and their habitats, particularly species listed on Raptors MoU, papers published in recognized (peer reviewed) journals and magazines, including as principal author. **Scoring was from 1** (no data provided or irrelevant to raptor conservation) to 5 (many publications on relevant subjects for raptor conservation and/or management of species and their habitats, in respected media and as principal author).

8. The Panel carried out the assessment using a two-step process: firstly ensuring the suitability of the applicant to be a member of the TAG (candidates were scored based on the above six criteria); and, secondly, trying to fill the expertise gaps.

Proposals for membership of TAG

9. Of the total of 17 nominations, nine were nominated by Signatories, seven by two Co-operating Partners (BirdLife International and the International Association of Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey (IAF)), and one representative nominated by BirdLife for their reserved position on the TAG. As a result of the assessment process, one candidate (with the lowest scoring) was considered not eligible for TAG membership at the current time, due primarily to his lack of experience, lower recognized expertise and limited multi-level working in comparison with the other nominations.

10. All nine nominations received from Signatories were considered suitable to serve on TAG by the Selection Panel. Allocating these candidates into their respective regions left two spaces for Regional Representatives (Africa and Asia) and also meant that there was an extra member proposed for the European Region. The Selection Panel concluded that the two vacant spaces could be appropriately filled by two of the candidates nominated by Cooperating Partners, and that due to the extensive knowledge, experience and expertise of one of the nominations from Europe, he could better serve on TAG in an Expert role. The remaining four successful candidates nominated by Cooperating Partners neatly completed the required compliment of five Experts. The Selection Panel was fully satisfied with skills, qualifications and expertise of the candidate proposed by BirdLife International to serve as their representative on TAG.

11. Accordingly, the Selection Panel proposes the following composition of TAG to serve from MoS2 onwards:

- a) Ten members covering four main geo-political regions covered by the Raptors MoU:
 - Three Representatives from Africa (excluding North Africa):
 1. André Botha (South Africa)
 2. Lily-Arison Rene de Roland (Madagascar)
 3. Neil Crossland Deacon (Zimbabwe)
 - Two Representatives from Asia:
 4. Umeed Khalid (Pakistan)
 5. Nyambayar Batbayar (Mongolia)
 - Three Representatives from Europe:
 6. Des Thompson (United Kingdom)
 7. Mátyás Prommer (Hungary)
 8. Jari Valkama (Finland)
 - Two Representatives from Middle East and North Africa:
 9. Sàlim Javed (United Arab Emirates)
 10. Sadegh Sadeghi Zadegan (Iran)

b) Five Experts:

1. Jean-Marc Thiollay (France)
2. Mohammed Shobrak (Saudi Arabia)
3. Munir Z. Virani (Kenya)
4. Vibhu Prakash (India)
5. Fernando Feás Costilla (Spain)

c) One Representative nominated by BirdLife International (BLI):

Vicky Jones (Based at BLI headquarters in the United Kingdom)

12. In summary, in line with the ToR, the selection Panel proposes a TAG membership of 16 individuals (Table 1), comprising 10 Regional Representatives, five Experts and one Representative from BirdLife International ('Red List' authority on birds delegate by IUCN). Summary Personal Profiles of the persons recommended for membership of the TAG are presented in the Annex to this document. Thirteen of the members served effectively on the Interim TAG since MoS1, which ensures a high level of continuity and promotes collaborative working within the group.

Table 1: Recommended membership of the Technical Advisory Group (from MoS2 onwards).

Membership	Name	Nominator (Region or Country)	Start Term	Term of expiry
Africa (excluding North Africa)	André Botha	South Africa (Signatory) - Africa	MoS1	MoS3
	Lily-Arison Rene de Roland	Madagascar (Signatory) - Africa	MoS1	MoS3
	Neil Deacon	IAF (Co-operating Partner) - Zimbabwe	MoS2	MoS4
Asia	Umeed Khalid	Pakistan (Signatory) - Asia	MoS1	MoS3
	Nyambayar Batbayar	Birdlife (Co-operating Partner) - Mongolia	MoS1	MoS3
Europe	Mátyás Prommer	Hungary (Signatory) - Europe	MoS1	MoS3
	Des B.A. Thompson	UK (Signatory) - Europe	MoS1	MoS3
	Jari Valkama	Finland (Signatory) - Europe	MoS1	MoS3
Middle East & North Africa	Sàlim Javed	UAE (Signatory) - Middle East & North Africa	MoS1	MoS3
	Sadegh Zadegan	Iran (Signatory) - Middle East & North Africa	MoS2	MoS4
Experts	Fernando Feás	IAF (Co-operating Partner) - Spain	MoS1	MoS3
	Vibhu Prakash	BirdLife (Co-operating Partner) - India	MoS1	MoS3
	Mohammed Shobrak	BirdLife (Co-operating Partner) – Saudi Arabia	MoS1	MoS3
	Jean-Marc Thiollay	France (Signatory) - Europe	MoS2	MoS4
	Munir Z. Virani	BirdLife (Co-operating Partner) - Kenya	MoS1	MoS3
BirdLife International	Victoria Jones	BirdLife (Co-operating Partner) - UK	MoS1	MoS3

Key: Nominations from Signatories are highlighted in bold.

Action requested:

The Meeting is invited to consider for adoption the 16 persons recommended by the Panel to comprise the Technical Advisory Group to the Raptors MoU.

Annex

Summary personal profiles of the 16 individuals recommended to serve on the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to the Raptors MoU

(Presented in alphabetical order)

1. Nyambayar Batbayar

Professional organization membership in several International Ornithological Associations in Asia, America, Africa & European Union, IUCN¹, Raptors Foundation and Asian Raptor Research and Conservation. Major government level decision support (for Ministry of Environment of Mongolia and Korean Cultural Heritage Administration). Director and Research biologist for the Wildlife Science and Conservation Center, since 2005 and Research Assistant, Center for Spatial Analysis at University of Oklahoma, since 2009. M.Sc. in Raptor Biology and PhD student at University of Oklahoma. Large number of publications in recognized magazines as 1st or 2nd author in raptors and in relevant threats. Expertise in vultures and threats.

2. André Botha

Membership of Professional Bodies with a relevant role: Co-Chair IUCN Species Survival Commission Vulture Specialist Group (2011 - contracted until 2016), Africa Representative – International Executive Council, International Rangers Federation (Game Rangers Association of Africa (since 1999). Manager of Endangered Wildlife Trust since 2004 involved on conservation and monitoring on raptor populations in southern Africa, and Member of Editorial Board - Environment magazine (since 2010). Raptors Expert in Southern Africa.

3. Neil Deacon

Vice president of BirdLife Zimbabwe. Director pharmaceutical, cosmetic and food company and regional consultant: EIA Avifauna with emphasis on Taita Falcons and Rock Pratincole for the Batoka Gorge Hydro Electric power development, Zambezi river. Active voluntary researcher in avian conservation, especially raptors, with some publications on Honeyguide (Journal of Zimbabwean Ornithology) and Gabar Journal (Birds of Prey Programme (BoPP) of the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT). African Researcher with expertise in fisheries and active involvement in raptor conservation.

4. Fernando Feás

Director Delegate of Spain in the IAF (International Association of Falconry) and Legal advisor for Royal Hunting Federation (falconry). Director and Manager of several raptor breeding centres (Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, South Africa and Spain) and collaborating in several conservation projects about birds of prey, as well as the director for breeding endangered bonelli's. Diploma in Environmental Law. Articles in wildlife and falconry popular magazines (Natura, Quercus, Trofeo, British falconers club magazine, etc.) as well as two books written on raptors. Expertise in Falconry and breeding programmes.

5. Sàlim Javed

Member of the Executive Committee of IUCN PQF and Board member of BirdLife Middle East and many others committees. Representative of the Country at international level. Manager of the Terrestrial Assessment and Conservation Division since 2010, and before Head of Bird Conservation Environment at the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi. Implementing a satellite tracking programme to study use of habitats and migratory patterns of some key species of the EAU. Research biologist with a PhD in Wildlife Sciences (Ornithology) and a large number of papers on migratory patterns (Sooty Falcon, Vultures declines in India, Avian Influenza), and referee for the Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society and reviewer of several Action Plans. Expertise in migratory patterns and vultures.

¹ International Union for Conservation of Nature

6. Vicky Jones

Member of Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel (since 2009). BirdLife International Global Flyways Officer and expertise coordinating and providing scientific and technical input into BirdLife's flyways programme, flyway relevant projects and collaborations and international policy processes. PhD in Zoology, subject: comparative ecology of birds (University of Cambridge, 2006). It has been working with the Raptors MoU Coordinating Unit last 3 years and developed the proposals of amendments of the Raptors MoU annexes.

7. Umeed Khalid

Member of the IUCN Commission on Protected Areas, Centre for Environmental Research and Conservation and Ornithological Society of Pakistan, among others. Representative of Pakistan at international seminars, workshops and meetings and member of several associations (any of them related with raptors). Zoologist and Conservator Wildlife at NCCW², Ministry of Environment of Pakistan and Faunal Biodiversity Specialist. Papers on Faunal Biodiversity including environmental programmes and field research reports on wildlife.

8. Vibhu Prakash

RSPB Marsh Award for International Conservation (2002), Award for Conservation and Protection of Wildlife conferred by Haryana Government (2007) and Member of Central Zoo Authority. Principal Scientist/Deputy Director of Bombay Natural History Society and the Head of Vulture Conservation Breeding Programme at a National level. PhD in Zoology (University of Mumbai), theme "General Ecology of Raptors (Families Accipitridae and Strigidae)"; and a large number of papers on Indian vultures and diclofenac, but also other species such as *Aquila hastata*, *Aviceda leuphotes*, *Microhierax caerulescens* and *Circus aeruginosus*. Asian scientific in Raptors.

9. Mátyás Prommer

Board member of Raptor Conservation Section at BLI Hungary and national co-ordinator to the Hungarian Peregrine Falcon conservation programme. Hungarian science representative expert on raptors and Advisor on European policies. Deputy Secretary General of CEEweb for Biodiversity. Member of board of editors for Heliaca and Slovak Raptor Journal; and author of a large number of papers on Saker Falcon, Peregrinus Falcon, Reed Footed Falcons, Long Legged Buzzard and some chemicals threats. European Expertise in Raptors.

10. Lily-Arison Rene de Roland

Africa Bird Club representative in Madagascar with avian surveys in more than 40 protected areas throughout Madagascar and specialist in harriers. National Director of The Peregrine Fund's Madagascar Project (since 2004) and Professor at the Department of Animal Biology at the Veterinarian University in Antananarivo. Post-Doc Thesis: "Endemic birds, tools of Conservation" and PhD "Comparative study on biology and ecology for the three sympatric species of Accipiter genus in Madagascar (*Accipiter francesii*, *A. madagascariensis*, *A. henstii*)". A large number of publications; supervises graduate students on raptor studies. Raptors specialist in Madagascar.

11. Sadegh Zadegan

Executive Director for the "Ramsar Regional Centre in Central and West Asia" (2012/13), and national representative at several conventions and international treaties: CP Society in the Middle East (OSME), CMS FP³, Raptors NCP⁴, Sooty Falcon Working Group and Saker Falcon Taskforce (SFT). Head of Ornithology Unit at the Wildlife Bureau of the Iranian Department of Environment (since 2014) and before Ornithological Expert in the same Department (since 1993). Master Degree in Environmental Science, thesis on "Bird Strike Risk Assessment for the Country's Airports" and publications mainly related with waterbirds.

² The National Council for Conservation of Wildlife of Pakistan

³ CMS FP : Focal Point of the Convention on Migratory Species

⁴ Raptors NCP : National Contact Point of the Raptors MoU

12. Mohammed Shobrak

Member with roles of responsibility in BLI Global Council Presenting the Middle East, Chairman of AEWA⁵, Member of the Steering Committee of Migratory Soaring Birds Project (GEF/BirdLife) and , representing the Middle East and Member of the Middle East Regional Committee. Researcher and Associated Professor in Animal Ecology (Taif University) and Vice Dean of Academic Research. Birds Advisor for the Saudi Wildlife Authority and regional consultant (Saudi Arabia, Djibouti, Sudan, Somalia and Egypt) and expertise in re-introduction of endangered species. PhD thesis on "Ecology of the lappet-faced vultures *Torgos tracheliotus* in Saudi Arabia" (Glasgow University) and a large number of papers, reports and abstracts (biology conservation, molecular issues, raptors and threats). Thesis Supervisor and Referee.

13. Jean-Marc Thiollay

Member of all major international ornithological (26), and board member in 5 of them (SEOF⁶, LPO⁷, Peregrine Fund), and President and/or member of several Scientific Committees (Parcs, reserves, IUCN French committee). Director of Research at the French National Center of Scientific Research and part time expert work in French Ministry of Environment and Forest National Office (implementation of conservation strategies and protected areas in the French overseas territories, especially French Guiana and New-Caledonia) - retired. PhD thesis in ecology, on migrations of raptors within West Africa (University of Paris, 1976) and over 240 scientific publications from 1963 to 2014 in international journals and books.

14. Des B.A. Thompson

Principi Adviser on Biodiversity of the Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and Editor-in-chief of the new Scottish Biodiversity Strategy. Chair of the Watson Raptor Science Prize Panel (Annual prize for best European scientific paper on birds of prey), Member of UK National Ecosystem Assessment, Expert Panel Member of IUCN UK Commission and Norwegian Research Council adviser. Several prizes and awards as Tony Bradshaw Award (2009) for Scottish Raptor Monitoring Scheme. DSc and PhD on conservation ecology (lapwings, golden plovers and black-headed gulls"). More than 100 refereed reports and short communications, articles and book reviews published and external university examiner for more than 25 DSc, DPhil and PhD theses and student supervision. Associate Editor of Journal of Applied Ecology (since 2005), and Ibis (1998-2010).

15. Jari Valkama

Board Member of EURING, Osprey Foundation, BirdLife Finland and Finnish Ornithological Society. Curator at the Finnish Museum of Natural History (since 2002), and before Leader of the Monitoring Team and Vice-Director of the Zoology Unit and Head of the Finnish Bird Ringing Scheme. PhD Thesis: "Factors affecting breeding success and behaviour in the Curlew on farmland", with a large number of papers in habitat use and migration behaviour (Honey Buzzards, Eagle owls). Peer-reviews: Annales Zoologici Fennici, Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology (2), Condor, Conservation Letters, Ecography, Ecological Research, Folia Zoologica, Ibis (2), Journal of Avian Biology (4), Journal of Ornithology, Journal of Raptor Research (2), Oecologia (3), Ornis Fennica (6)

16. Munir Z. Virani

Board member of Directors of the Raptor Research Foundation, member of Nature Kenya's Bird Committee and Chair of the Africa Steering Committee for the IUCN Vulture Specialist Group. Program Director for Africa and Asia for The Peregrine Fund (USA, since 1998) and Representative of The Peregrine Fund at the highest level to South Asia. Principal Investigator and Research Biologist (University of Leicester, 1994-1998) with over 100 scientific and popular articles issues (EIA on key birds of prey in East Africa, *Gyps indicus* and diclofenac) and editorial board of the East African Wildlife Society. Expertise in raptors in East Africa and South Asia.

⁵ AEWA : The African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement

⁶ SEOF: Société d'Etudes Ornithologiques de France

⁷ Ligue pour les Oiseaux (French BirdLife Partner)