

Third Meeting of the Technical Advisory Group | *Sempach, Switzerland, 12-14 December 2018*

INTERSESSIONAL NOMINATION OF A TAG REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR ASIA

Prepared by Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MOU

1. The membership of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to the Raptors MOU was formally established at the second Meeting of Signatories (MOS2) in 2015 (see document UNEP/CMS/Raptors/MOS2/16)¹, following the procedures set out in the Terms of Reference² adopted at MOS1 in 2012. The TAG had worked on an interim basis during the intersessional period between MOS1 and MOS2. The original list of TAG members can be found in CMS Notification 2015/025³.
2. In early 2018, one of the two TAG Regional Representatives for Asia, Mr. Umeed Khalid, retired from service in the Government of Pakistan after a successful career and informed the Coordinating Unit that he was unable to continue serving as a member of the TAG.
3. In a situation where a TAG member vacancy arises intersessionally between MOSs, the Terms of Reference for TAG (Section 13) allows for the Chair of the TAG to propose a replacement for consideration by Signatories of the region concerned. Accordingly, Prof. Des Thompson, in consultation with the Coordinating Unit, proposed Dr. Suresh Kumar Ramani Kumar, Senior Scientist at the Department of Endangered Species Management, Wildlife Institute of India, to serve as the Asia Regional Representative for TAG.
4. On 17 October 2018 the Coordinating Unit circulated this proposal along with the CV of Dr. Ramani Kumar to the National Contact Points of the four Signatory States in the Asia Region (as referred to in the TAG Terms of Reference), namely India, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan. No feedback was received by the Coordinating Unit by the 30-day deadline of 16 November 2018.
5. Since there were no objections, the interim appointment was accepted and became effective immediately. The term of appointment of Dr. Ramani Kumar will expire at the end of MOS3 (unless the member is re-appointed by the Meeting). A short profile of the new TAG Regional Representative for Asia is included in Annex 1 of this document.

¹ <https://www.cms.int/raptors/en/document/establishment-technical-advisory-group>

² <https://www.cms.int/raptors/en/document/tor-technical-advisory-group-raptors-mou>

³ <https://www.cms.int/en/news/2015025-appointment-technical-advisory-group-cms-raptors-mou>

Annex 1: Short profile of the new TAG Regional Representative for Asia

Suresh Kumar Ramani Kumar

Senior Scientist at Department of Endangered Species Management, Wildlife Institute of India. Member of the Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative (AMBI) of the Arctic Council. Expertise drafting national flyway plans and initiating raptor conservation projects (e.g. migratory Amur Falcons in Northeast India). Developed research study for assessing impacts of powerlines and wind turbines on birds. PhD on 'Offshore ecology and behaviour of the Olive Ridley Sea Turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) along the Rushikulya rookery, Orissa coast, India' (2016). Authored a large number of research publications, book chapters, short and popular communications; supervises graduate students. Regional raptor expert in India.