

Fourth Meeting of the Technical Advisory Group | Online, 13-15 December 2021

STATUS OF TAG MEMBERSHIP

Prepared by the Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MOU

1. The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) was established with an interim membership by 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 (see document CMS/Raptors/MOS1/Doc.13.21). The interim members of TAG worked during the intersessional period between MOS1 and MOS2.
2. The current membership of TAG worked during the intersessional period between MOS2 and MOS3 after being appointed by the second Meeting of Signatories (MOS2) in 2015 (see document UNEP/CMS/Raptors/MOS2/16²), following the procedures set out in the Terms of Reference (TORs) adopted at MOS1 in 2012 (UNEP/CMS/Raptors/MOS2/Inf.2³).
3. The TAG membership is comprised of up to sixteen members including:
 - 10 persons 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;
 - Up to 5 other experts; and
 - One person nominated by BirdLife International – the IUCN nominated authority on birds.
4. According to paragraph 11 of the TAG TORs adopted at MOS1, “TAG members should serve for a period of two regular Meetings of Signatories and in exceptional cases, where the MOS so decides, may be nominated for a third term”. The TAG TORs do not indicate what constitutes an “exceptional case”.
5. Twelve of the current sixteen members of TAG also served as interim members, therefore the start of their mandate was MOS1. Consequently, the end of their mandate will be at MOS3 (see Table 1). Three TAG members were appointed at MOS2 and will serve until MOS4.
6. In 2018, one of the two representatives for Asia, Mr. Umeed Khalid, retired and resigned from TAG. Pursuant to paragraph 13 of the TAG TORs, the TAG Chair proposed to the Signatories the appointment of Dr. Suresh Kumar Ramani Kumar, Senior Scientist at the Department of Endangered Species Management, Wildlife Institute of India (see document UNEP/CMS/Raptors/TAG3/Inf.4).

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

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

³ <https://www.cms.int/raptors/en/document/tor-technical-advisory-group-raptors-mou>

Pursuant to paragraph 13 of the TAG TORs, Dr. Kumar’s term “shall expire at the end of the next MOS [i.e. MOS3], unless re-appointed by the MOS further to paragraph 11”.

7. In August 2021, Mr. Sadegh Zadegan resigned as member of TAG following a change in his role. As a result of these changes, only two of the present members will continue serving on the TAG until MOS4.

Table 1: Membership of the Technical Advisory Group

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
	<u>Neil Deacon</u>	<u>IAF (Co-operating Partner) - Zimbabwe</u>	<u>MOS2</u>	<u>MOS4</u>
Asia	Suresh Kumar Ramani Kumar	Proposed by TAG chair in 2018	2018	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	Resigned in 2021
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
	<u>Jean-Marc Thiollay</u>	<u>France (Signatory) - Europe</u>	<u>MOS2</u>	<u>MOS4</u>
BirdLife International	Munir Z. Virani	BirdLife (Co-operating Partner) - Kenya	MOS1	MOS3
	Victoria Jones	BirdLife (Co-operating Partner) - UK	MOS1	MOS3

Key: Nominations from Signatories are highlighted in bold. The members whose mandate is not ending at MOS3 are underlined.

8. As indicated in Table 1, fourteen of the sixteen members of the TAG are set to be replaced at MOS3. The anticipated turnover may result in a loss of continuity of the work of TAG as over 75% of its membership would change.

9. In early 2022, the Coordinating Unit will circulate a call for TAG nominations for candidates to serve from MOS3 to MOS5. Signatories and Cooperating Partners would be able to nominate new candidates or renominate current TAG members whose mandate will end at MOS3. However, in the latter case, the nomination should usefully include an explanation as to why an “exceptional case” would apply.

10. Pursuant to paragraph 10(c) of the TAG TORs, all nominees would be reviewed by a Panel comprised of the current TAG Chair and Vice-chair, the Head of Coordinating Unit and Executive Coordinator of CMS Office – Abu Dhabi. The Panel would be chaired by the TAG Chair. Regional representatives and other experts would be appointed by the MOS after consideration of the Panel’s recommendations.

11. Should they be renominated and MOS3 decides that “exceptional cases” apply for six TAG members with expiring terms, by MOS4 only approximately 50% of the serving TAG members would need to be renewed. This would reduce the turnover at each MOS to 50% and ensure continuity to TAG and its work.

Action requested:

TAG is invited to take note of the process to renew the TAG membership and consider making recommendations to the MOS.