

Report of Interim TAG Raptors MoU MOS2, Trondheim

**Professor Des Thompson
Chair**



Outline...

- TAG membership
- Activities
- Work to date
- Next steps...



Beacons of environmental health

- Top of the food chain
- Supreme indicators of change
- Globally, some of the best conservation programmes
- Well surveyed and monitored
- Distinguished history of scientific and volunteer effort... landmark scientific studies
- Public enjoy raptors
- Governments' interest intensifying
- Debates and controversy have high profile

Membership of interim TAG

- First met in January 2014, Edinburgh
 - Second meeting in March 2015, Abu Dhabi
- Prof. Des Thompson (chair)
 - Dr. Salim Javed (vice chair)
 - Dr. Nyambayar Batbayar
 - Mr. André Botha
 - Mr. Fernando Feas
 - Mr. Umeed Khalid
 - Dr. Charles Musyoki Mutua
 - Mr. Mátyás Prommer
 - Prof. Lily Arison René de Roland
 - Dr. Jari Valkama
 - Dr. Vibhu Prakash
 - Prof. Mohammed Shobrak
 - Dr. Munir Virani
 - Dr. Vicky Jones
 - Mr. Yacouba Magagi
 - Ms. Hela Guidara
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Supported by...


Observers:

- Ms. Nicola J. Crockford
- Prof. Robert Kenward
- Mr. David Stroud

CMS staff/support:

- Mr. Nick P. Williams
- Dr. Borja Heredia
- Ms. Jenny Renell
- Mr. Robert Vagg, and
volunteers Ms. Ini-Isabée
Witzel and Ms. Siri
Quade

MOS1 request... support and advise on

- 1 – MoU: Improvement of protection
 - 2 – Threats: Protect and/or manage important sites and flyways
 - 3 – Threats: Power grids, renewable energy, illegal killing and poisoning
 - 4 – Raise awareness of problems faced by raptors and measures needed to conserve them
 - 5 – Guidance: Monitoring, conservation research and appropriate remedial measures
 - 6 – Reporting: Supporting measures
 - 7 – Horizon scanning and emerging issues
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Eight Working Groups (WG) formed around key tasks – led by ...

- **Improvement of Protection** - Vicky Jones
- **Important Sites** - Vicky Jones
- **Power Grids & Renewables** - Munir Virani and Nicola Crockford
- **Illegal Killing** - Charles Musyoki Mutua and Nicola Crockford
- **Poisoning** - Vibhu Prakash and Andre Botha
- **Awareness Raising** - Mátyás Prommer and Andre Botha
- **Monitoring & Research** - Jari Valkama and David Stroud
- **Reporting & Support** - Øystein Størkersen, Salim Javed and Des Thompson

Second meeting of TAG

- 26 key actions emerged from TAG 1, and were developed...
 - At TAG 2, by now working intensively in groups...
 - **Activities 1 & 2. Species lists and sites**
 - **Activity 3. Threats**
 - **Activity 4. Awareness raising and remedial actions**
 - **Activity 5. Common standards for methods/data sharing**
 - **Activities 6 & 7. Reporting and horizon scanning**
- ... Now some detail....

Species lists

- Proposed taxonomic amendments... considered 76 species under Annex 1 of the MoU => **over 20 changes**... removals, additions, amendments largely due to taxonomic verification to conform with del Hoyo and Collar (2014):
 - 3 species removed: *Milvus lineatus*, *Buteo oreophilus*, *Falco pelegrinoides*
 - 2 species added: *Buteo japonicus*, *B. trizonatus*

More species ...

- Major review of migration, movements and occurrences, mindful of proposed species changes
- **Propose addition of maximum of 20 species** (inc. 12 vultures) to Annex 1; of these, 18 recommended by TAG (too little current evidence for *Polyboroides typus*, *Falco jugger*)
- Major work by TAG – experience and judgements – lot of detail presented

Addition of vultures

- + Upsurge in use of radio telemetry and satellite tracking (esp. African vultures)
- + Age and seasonal differences
- + Variations in food distribution critical
- + Exceptional concerns over conservation status of Asian vultures
- + Raptor MoU offers major framework for supporting recovery of vultures



Recap

- TAG overhauled species listings
- Provided proposals for Raptor MoU Annex 1 and Annex 3
- Vultures have growing prominence



Sites

- Major TAG effort in revising the Table 3 sites list – given number of Range States, this has been a massive undertaking: **over 7,000 new sites proposed**
- **Further work on Table 3, beyond MOS2** subject to views on species and sites – possibly avoid reference to e.g. SPAs, IBAs
- Need to report on status of sites – six yearly?
- **Need evidence-based and suitably timed consultation on changes – needs to begin soon!**

Threats

- **Developments in advice on managing sites/flyways**
- **IUCN Guidelines continue to work well**
- **Powergrids/lines/developments subject to guidelines and guidance. Need to link with CMS Energy Task Force. Importance of 'Power Africa' noted**
- **Progress on 'Illegal killing and taking' guidance**
- **Noted significant developments through satellite tracking**

Threats cont.

- Need to mobilize more public support
- Major opportunities for devising '*Friends of the Raptors MoU*'
- *Saker Falcon Task Force* was a major breakthrough, and especially in addressing conflicts
- Diclofenac – toxic to vulture and some other scavengers, still licensed for sale for veterinary use in parts of EU

Common standards

- Growing number of examples of good practice at national/state levels regarding surveys, monitoring and use of technologies – opportunities to commission a review



Awareness raising

- **Major opportunities** – satellite tracking studies and other research insights
- **Plight of vultures** – possibly ‘Year of Vultures’... we have hit a ‘perfect storm’ for this group of birds



Thank you

TAG Members, observers and
support staff

Scottish Government and United
Arab Emirates for hosting
meetings

