

Second Meeting of Signatories | *Trondheim, Norway, 5-8 October 2015*

CURRENT FINANCIAL STATUS AND FUTURE FUNDING

Prepared by the Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MoU

1. Since establishment in August 2009, the Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MoU has been generously funded via a Donor Agreement signed between Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD), on behalf of the Government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
2. This report to Signatories is divided into four main areas of financial activity - three covering a three and a half year period (1 January 2012 – 30 June 2015) and a final section looking ahead for a period of three calendar years beginning on 1 January 2016, as follows:
 - a. Summary of operating costs and expenditure of the Coordinating Unit;
 - b. List of the main projects and consultancies commissioned and managed by the Coordinating Unit;
 - c. Fundraising efforts by the Coordinating Unit, including a summary of additional funding support received from Signatories and other sources;
 - d. Future funding of the Coordinating Unit and opportunities for additional voluntary contributions.

Coordinating Unit

3. The Coordinating Unit is located within CMS Office - Abu Dhabi, a satellite office of the CMS Secretariat, alongside the Secretariat of the Dugong MoU. Hosted by EAD at their headquarters building, the Coordinating Unit is fortunate to be operating from modern accommodation equipped with computers, telephones, mail and courier services, printing and photocopying facilities, wireless internet and associated IT support. These facilities are additional to the Donor Agreement and are very kindly provided by EAD.

4. At present (September 2015), the Coordinating Unit comprises two professional officers (Programme Officer and Associate Programme Officer) and one general staff member (Finance/Administrative Assistant) whose time is shared with the Secretariat of the Dugong MoU and the CMS Office - Abu Dhabi in general. The Executive Coordinator of CMS Office – Abu Dhabi allocates one third of his time to the Raptors MoU-related programme of the Office. A summary financial report is presented at Table 1 (Annex 1). Since MoS1, the Office has hosted three interns and it is planned that interns will be recruited regularly for periods of 3-6 months for the foreseeable future.

Projects and consultancies

5. To facilitate the implementation of key raptor conservation projects and activities, the Coordinating Unit negotiated the following contracts via Small Scale Funding Agreements (in chronological order):

- **Egyptian Vulture Fieldwork Capacity Building Project:** support for training conservationists in Africa. Contractor: The Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds (BSPB - BirdLife Bulgaria). September 2012 – August 2013 (1 year), total cost USD 24,973.
- **Saker Falcon Task Force (STF):** support for Working Group (Knowledge Gap Analysis) of the STF. Contractor: BirdLife International. April – July 2013 (4 months), total cost USD 3,000.
- **Saker Falcon Task Force:** facilitation of the Stakeholders' Workshop in September 2013. Contractor: Stichting BirdLife Europe. August – November 2013 (4 months), total cost EUR 3,560.
- **African Raptor DataBank:** development of a smartphone (Android) application (App) for use offline. Contractor: HabitatINFO. November 2013 – July 2014 (8 months), total cost USD 5,000.
- **Amur Falcon Partnership:** capturing, satellite tagging, releasing and monitoring of three falcons from Nagaland, India. Contractor: The Hungarian Ornithological and Nature Conservation Society (MME - BirdLife Hungary). November 2013 – October 2014, total cost USD 20,000.
- **Egyptian Vulture Flyway Action Plan (FAP):** development of a FAP for the Balkan and Central Asian populations of the Egyptian Vulture. Contractor: Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds (BSPB - BirdLife Bulgaria). March 2014 – September 2015, total cost USD 35,000.
- **Egyptian Vulture Flyway Action Plan:** facilitation of the Egyptian Vulture FAP Workshop in July 2015. Contractor: Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds (BSPB - BirdLife Bulgaria). February – December 2015 (10 months), total cost EUR 5,250.
- **Saker Falcon Online Portal:** support for developing an online information portal. Contractor: European Sustainable Use Group. November 2014 – November 2016 (2 years), total cost USD 10,000.
- **Technical Advisory Group to the Raptors MoU:** support for conducting Activities¹ 1 and 2 assigned by Signatories. Contractor: BirdLife International. October 2014 – September 2015 (1 year), total cost USD 29,960.
- **Global online Data Zone:** developing a Raptors MoU species tool within the BirdLife International's online Data Zone webpage. Contractor: BirdLife International. September 2015 – March 2016 (6 months), total cost USD 8,750.

6. To facilitate delivery of its WorkPlan, the Coordinating Unit (CU) recruited the following temporary consultants during the reporting period:

Title and Purpose	Period	Total Cost
Team Associate (a) – administrative support to the CU	August 2012 – August 2014	USD 93,924
Team Associate (b) – administrative support to the CU	January 2013 – January 2015	USD 94,392
Team Associate (c) – administrative support to the CU	May–November 2015	USD 23,832
Team Associate (d) – administrative support to the CU	May–November 2015	USD 23,832
Specialist Technical Advisor – Saker Falcon Task Force (Part time)	February–April 2012, January 2013 – July 2014	USD 108,250
Chairmanship – Saker Falcon Task Force (Part time)	November 2012 – December 2014	USD 33,131
Technical Coordinator – ISSAP for the Sooty Falcon (Part time)	March 2013 – March 2014	USD 25,000
Review of EU Action Plan for the Egyptian Vulture (Part time) – EUR 7,575	June – September 2015	USD 8,252
Total cost of consultants (converted to USD)		USD 410,613

¹ For the list of Activities please refer to the TAG Terms of Reference at UNEP/CMS/Raptors/MOS2/Inf.2 http://www.cms.int/raptors/sites/default/files/document/mos2_inf2_raptors_tag_tor_e.pdf.

Fundraising

7. According to paragraph 20 of the Raptors MoU, '[...] *The Signatories will endeavour to finance from national and other sources the implementation in their territory of the measures necessary for the conservation of birds of prey. In addition, they will endeavor to assist each other in the implementation and financing of key points of the Action Plan, and seek assistance from other sources for the financing and implementation of their strategies or equivalent measures*'.

8. The Coordinating Unit has been proactive in fundraising aimed at securing additional resources to enhance capacity to implement internationally coordinated collaborative projects and programme activities to support implementation of the Raptors MoU. A range of proposals and requests have been developed and submitted to various potential donors over the last three years. A summary list of the additional financial contributions secured during that period is set out below:

Purpose of voluntary contribution	Donor	Amount
Saker Falcon Task Force – Strengthening the capacity to identify possibilities of sustainable management and non-detrimental trade of the Saker Falcon	CITES Secretariat	USD 20,000
1 st Meeting of the Technical Advisory Group (Edinburgh, Scotland - January 2014)	DEFRA, United Kingdom	GBP 10,000 (USD 15,385)
1 st Meeting of the Technical Advisory Group (Edinburgh, Scotland - January 2014)	Scottish Government	GBP 5,000 (USD 7,692)
Saker Falcon Task Force - Saker Falcon Online Portal (Lead contributor)	International Association for Falconry (IAF)	USD 33,000
Second Meeting of Signatories (MoS2) USD 31,250 cash + in kind contribution	Norwegian Environment Agency	USD 80,000
Second Meeting of Signatories (MoS2)	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB), Germany	EUR 20,000 (USD 22,497)
Second Meeting of Signatories (MoS2)	Ministry of Economic Affairs, The Netherlands	EUR 5,000 (USD 5,624)
Total amount of voluntary contributions		(USD) 184,198

Note: All 'volycos' have been converted into US dollars at the UN exchange rate on 1 September 2015.

9. At the First Meeting of Signatories (MoS1) to the Raptors MoU held in December 2012, the Coordinating Unit put forward a proposal requesting Signatories to consider establishing a Small Grants Programme under the Raptors MoU. The aim was to create an ongoing funding mechanism to promote and support modest projects that offer the potential to assist in implementing the aims of the Raptors MoU. Signatories decided to defer full consideration of establishing a Small Grants Programme. Instead, the Coordinating Unit was asked to collate a list of Project Proposals, in consultation with the Technical Advisory Group (TAG), and then to circulate the list to Signatories and Cooperating Partners for consideration.

10. Accordingly, the Coordinating Unit gathered together a suite of 20 Project Proposals (UNEP/CMS/Raptors/MOS2/Inf.19). These Proposals emerged from various sources: seven projects were originally submitted in response to the Call for the CMS Small Grant Programme issued in March 2012 but were not selected for support by the CMS Secretariat; four Flagship Projects were developed by the Saker Falcon Task Force; and, the remainder were either received as unsolicited

submissions from stakeholders or developed in-house by the Coordinating Unit. TAG members were asked to review and assess the suite of Proposals in terms of feasibility, technical quality and priority.

11. In May 2014, the Coordinating Unit circulated the Suite of Project Proposals to Signatories and Cooperating Partners for review and solicited 'expressions of interest' for voluntary funding to support part or all of the costs of any of the projects. One of the Proposals, 'A Portal to Enhance Trust for the Saker Falcon' Phase I, was selected by the International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey (IAF), a Cooperating Partner to the Raptors MoU. Negotiations followed which led to a Small Scale Funding Agreement being signed between IUCN European Sustainable Use Group (ESUG) and the Coordinating Unit in November 2014.

12. Following the adoption of CMS Resolution 11.18 (Saker Falcon Global Action Plan) (UNEP/CMS/Raptors/MOS2/8/Annex 1)² by Parties at CMS COP11 in November 2014, there is now a pressing need to secure additional funds to support the recruitment of a Coordinator to guide and oversee implementation of the SakerGAP (UNEP/CMS/Raptors/MOS2/8/Annex 2)³. In addition, financial support is required to host an action planning workshop to finalise the International Single Species Action Plan for the Sooty Falcon.

13. Mechanisms to mobilise additional resources to enhance the capacity of the Coordinating Unit to implement the Action Plan in the future could include:

- a. **Ad hoc voluntary contributions ('volycons') from Signatories:** Based on the experience of the Coordinating Unit over the last five years, this has been the major source of income for programme activities. Signatories and Co-operating Partners are invited to consider incorporating regular volycons into their own annual financial planning mechanisms. The Coordinating Unit would welcome advice from Signatories and Co-operating Partners as to the type of project proposals most likely to attract funding.
- b. **Regular voluntary contributions from Signatories based on the UN indicative scale:** An agreed annual or triennial budget could be apportioned among Signatories, on a voluntary basis, according to the United Nations (UN) Scale of Assessment. This approach was adopted by the CMS Indian Ocean - South-East Asian (IOSEA) Marine Turtle MoU at its Meeting of Signatories in January 2012. As an example, Annex 2 provides an indication of the annual contribution for each Signatory to the Raptors MoU for a figure of USD 150,000. The contributions have been calculated using the UN General Assembly agreed scale of contributions (A/Res/64/248). However, following the practice adopted by many of the CMS instruments, the maximum contribution is capped at 20% of the overall budget and the contribution of the European Union has been fixed at 2.5%.
- c. **Concerted programme of fundraising:** To date the Coordinating Unit has absorbed fundraising activities within normal day-to-day administrative activities. Establishing a part or full-time Fundraising Officer via a consultancy would create the capacity required to establish a more strategic programme of proposals and initiatives aimed at securing six figure sums. Some exploratory work has already been carried out in conjunction with the Secretariat of the Dugongs MoU but more resources are required to take this activity forward.
- d. **In-kind contributions:** Such contributions can be considered alongside, and complimentary to, financial contributions. They may include donating equipment, professional, technical or administrative services or offering to loan staff for free to work in the Coordinating Unit. Individuals selected would have the opportunity to gain unique experience which could be a valuable asset to their parent organization on their return, as well as providing important

² http://www.cms.int/raptors/sites/default/files/document/mos2_conservation_initiatives_annex1_e.pdf

³ http://www.cms.int/raptors/sites/default/files/document/mos2_conservation_initiatives_annex2_e.pdf

personal development opportunities. With modern communication technology it is realistic to consider the option of remote-working, i.e. staff remaining based at the parent organization in the home country and thus saving travel and accommodation costs associated with a posting to the Coordinating Unit in Abu Dhabi.

Future funding of the Coordinating Unit

14. In late 2014, UNEP and EAD considered the outcomes of the Donor Agreement that had operated since 2009 as “positive and highly encouraging”. The Executive Council of the Government of Abu Dhabi approved hosting of CMS Office - Abu Dhabi to be continued for a further five years (2015-2019), authorising EAD to make a renewed contribution for 2015.

15. In early 2015, on behalf of UNEP/CMS Office, EAD submitted a new funding application to the Executive Council seeking to support the CMS Office – Abu Dhabi for the period 2016-2019. In early September 2015, EAD confirmed that their bid had been successful and that they would continue to fund CMS Office – Abu Dhabi, on behalf of the Government of the UAE, for a further four years. Table 2 (Annex 1) presents a provisional budget for the Coordinating Unit for the period 2016 - 2019, inclusive.

16. The Coordinating Unit wishes to express its sincere gratitude to EAD, and the Government of UAE, for the immense and unstinting support provided since the MoU was concluded in 2008.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to:

- a) Warmly welcome and accept the very generous offer from EAD, on behalf of the Government of the UAE, to fund the Coordinating Unit for a further four years (until 31 December 2019).
- b) Review the Suite of Project Proposals (UNEP/CMS/Raptors/MOS2/Inf.19) once more to identify if there are opportunities for Signatories to contribute voluntary funding support for part or all of the costs of any of the projects.
- c) Urge Signatories to consider incorporating regular volycons into their annual financial planning mechanisms and to alert the Coordinating Unit to any preferences they may have concerning the types of projects most likely to attract support from their funding streams.
- d) Consider and adopt options for resource mobilisation to provide support and assistance that will enable enhanced implementation of the Action Plan over the next triennium.

Annex 1

Table 1: Summary of Expenditure of the Coordinating Unit (1 January 2012 – 31 August 2015)

Raptors MoU	Budget Item	2012	2013	2014	2015 ²	Total (USD)
	Head of Unit, Executive Coordinator (P-5) (33%) ¹	7000	94.490	71.686	56.860	230.036
	Programme Officer, Raptors (P-4)	191.319	178.520	180.285	122.590	672.714
	Associate Programme Officer, Raptors (P-2)	133.235	131.013	130.447	89.908	484.603
	Admin/Finance Assistant (G-6) – PSC funded	-	-	-	-	-
	Subtotal	331.554	404.023	382.418	269.358	1.387.353
	Consultants	140.000	24.242	118.400	38.800	321.442
	Travel on official mission	42.804	16.900	5.800	3500	69.004
	Small Grants	34.100	14.210	40.100	25.250	113.660
	Meetings	200.000	86.561	34.600	22.000	343.161
	Information management & material	-	9.300	6.296	6.740	22.336
	Equipment (50%)	948	1.874	1.580	0	4.402
	Miscellaneous	6.892	1.724	356	0	8.972
	Subtotal	424.744	154.811	207.132	96.290	882.977
	TOTAL	756.298	558.834	589.550	365.648	2.270.330
	Programme Support Cost (PSC), 13%	98.319	72.648	76.642	47.534	295.143
	GRAND TOTAL	854.617	631.482	666.192	413.182	2.565.473

¹ Head of Unit position vacant in 2012. Position costs shared with Dugong MoU and CMS Office – Abu Dhabi

² Expenditure up to 31 August 2015

Table 2: Indicative Budget for the Coordinating Unit (1 January 2015 – 31 December 2018)

Raptors MoU	Budget Item	2016	2017	2018	Total (USD)
	Head of Unit, Executive Coordinator (P-5) (33%) ¹	87.967	90.166	92.420	270.554
	Programme Officer, Raptors (P-4)	208.473	213.685	219.027	641.185
	Associate Programme Officer, Raptors (P-2)	142.633	146.199	149.854	438.686
	Administrative/Finance Assistant (G-6) – PSC funded	-	-	-	-
	Subtotal	439.073	450.050	461.301	1.350.424
	Consultants	70.000	70.000	80.000	220.000
	Travel on official mission	15.000	15.000	18.000	48.000
	Small Grants	70.000	75.000	70.000	215.000
	Meetings	25.000	25.000	140.000	190.000
	Information management & material	25.000	25.000	25.000	75.000
	Equipment (50%)	1.500	1.500	1.500	4.500
	Miscellaneous	500	500	500	1.500
	Subtotal	207.000	212.000	335.000	754.000
	TOTAL	646.073	662.050	796.301	2.104.424
	Programme Support Cost (PSC), 13%	83.989	86.066	103.519	273.575
	GRAND TOTAL	730.062	748.116	899.820	2.377.999

¹ Head of Unit position costs shared with Dugong MoU and CMS Office – Abu Dhabi

Annex 2

Estimated voluntary assessed annual contributions by Signatories to generate US\$ 150,000

Signatory	Current UN Scale	Fixed Contributions	Revised Scale (adjusted to 100%)	Assessment Scale	Average annual contribution (USD)
Angola	0,01		0,028	0,028	42
Armenia	0,007		0,019	0,019	29
Belgium	0,998		2,778	2,778	4.166
Burundi	0,001		0,003	0,003	4
Chad	0,002		0,006	0,006	8
Congo	0,005		0,014	0,014	21
Congo, Democratic Republic of the	0,003		0,008	0,008	13
Czech Republic	0,386		1,074	1,074	1.611
Denmark	0,675		1,879	1,879	2.818
Djibouti	0,001		0,003	0,003	4
Egypt	0,134		0,373	0,373	559
Equatorial Guinea	0,01		0,028	0,028	42
European Union	-	2,5	0,000	2,500	3.750
Finland	0,519		1,444	1,444	2.167
France	5,593		15,566	15,566	23.349
Gambia	0,001		0,003	0,003	4
Germany	7,141		19,874	19,874	29.811
Ghana	0,014		0,039	0,039	58
Guinea	0,001		0,003	0,003	4
Hungary	0,266		0,740	0,740	1.110
Iran	0,356		0,991	0,991	1.486
Italy	4,448		12,379	12,379	18.569
Kenya	0,013		0,036	0,036	54
Lebanon	0,042		0,117	0,117	175
Libya	0,142		0,395	0,395	593
Luxembourg	0,081		0,225	0,225	338
Madagascar	0,003		0,008	0,008	13
Mali	0,004		0,011	0,011	17
Monaco	0,012		0,033	0,033	50
Mongolia	0,003		0,008	0,008	13
Morocco	0,062		0,173	0,173	259
Nepal	0,006		0,017	0,017	25
Netherlands	1,654		4,603	4,603	6.905
Niger	0,002		0,006	0,006	8
Norway	0,851		2,368	2,368	3.553
Pakistan	0,085		0,237	0,237	355
Portugal	0,474		1,319	1,319	1.979
Romania	0,226		0,629	0,629	943
Senegal	0,006		0,017	0,017	25
Slovakia	0,171		0,476	0,476	714
Somalia	0,001		0,003	0,003	4
South Africa	0,372		1,035	1,035	1.553
Spain	2,973		8,274	8,274	12.411
Sudan	0,01		0,028	0,028	42
Sweden	0,96		2,672	2,672	4.008
Switzerland	1,047		2,914	2,914	4.371
Syrian Arab Republic	0,036		0,100	0,100	150
Togo	0,001		0,003	0,003	4
Tunisia	0,036		0,100	0,100	150
United Arab Emirates	0		0,000	0,000	0
United Kingdom	5,179		14,414	14,414	21.620
Yemen	0,01		0,028	0,028	42
TOTAL	35,033	2,5	97,5	100,000	\$ 150.000