



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

Distr: General

UNEP/CMS/AERAP-IGM1/Report

Original: English

MEETING TO IDENTIFY AND ELABORATE AN
OPTION FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
ON AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY RAPTORS
UNDER THE CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES
Loch Lomond, Scotland, United Kingdom, 22-25 October 2007

REPORT OF THE MEETING

INTRODUCTION

1. A meeting to identify and elaborate an option for international co-operation on African-Migratory Raptors under the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) was held at the Cameron House Hotel, Loch Lomond, Scotland from 22 - 25 October 2007. It was co-hosted by the Governments of the United Kingdom (UK) and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

2. Range States of African-Eurasian migratory birds of prey were invited to send two representatives to the meeting: an official and an ornithologist to provide technical assistance. The following 44 potential Signatories were represented: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Chad, China, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Djibouti, Estonia, Ethiopia, European Community, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Guinea, India, Italy, Iraq, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lebanon, Libya, Lithuania, Macedonia, Malta, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Yemen. List of Participants is attached as Annex 8 to this report.

3. In addition, the following international and national organisations were represented: African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), BirdLife International, Dachverband Deutscher Avifaunisten e.V., Federation of Associations for Hunting & Conservation of the EU (FACE), Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey, IUCN (Sustainable Use Specialist Group), International Wildlife Consultants Ltd, Scottish Raptor Study Groups, SOVON, The Peregrine Fund-Kenya Project.

Agenda Item 1: Welcoming remarks

4. The meeting commenced at 0930 hours on Monday 22 October 2007. Mr. Robert Hepworth, Executive Secretary, UNEP/CMS welcomed the delegates and invited H.E. Mr. Michael Russell, Scottish Minister for Environment formally to open the meeting. The Minister opened the meeting and then welcomed the delegates, as did Mr. Majid Al Mansouri of the UAE Environment Agency, Abu Dhabi.

Agenda Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and meeting schedule

5. The Rules of Procedure based on those used for the Convention on Migratory Species were adopted without amendment.

6. The Provisional Agenda was adopted without amendment and is attached as Annex 1 to this report. The final list of documents is attached as Annex 2 to this report.

Agenda Item 3: Election of officers

7. Professor Colin Galbraith, Scottish Natural Heritage, UK was elected as Chairman for the meeting. Mr Abdul Nasser Al Shamsi, Environment Agency Abu Dhabi, UAE was elected as Vice-Chairman for the meeting.

8. The Chairman proposed the establishment of two Working Groups, one relating to administration and financial matters (Administrators' Working Group) and the other concerning scientific issues (Scientists' Working Group). The meeting agreed to this proposal.

9. Mr. Gerard Boere (The Netherlands) was elected chair of the Administrators' Working Group and Mr. Issa Sylla (Senegal) was elected chair of the Scientists' Working Group.

Agenda Item 4: Establishment of Credentials Committee

10. Chad, Germany, Libya, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and the UK agreed to serve on the Credentials Committees and to report periodically to the meeting on credentials accepted and outstanding.

Agenda Item 5: Meeting overview

11. The CMS Secretariat outlined the key aims and objectives of the meeting, as follows:

- To agree the CMS instrument type and develop its contents;
- To agree the geographic boundary of the instrument;
- To agree the list of species to be covered by the instrument;
- To develop the contents of the proposed Action Plan;
- To consider options for institutional bodies and financing considerations; and
- To agree next steps to take forward the development of the CMS instrument.

12. Mr. Salim Javed, UAE Environment Agency, Abu Dhabi gave a short presentation entitled the 'conception and incubation' of the CMS Raptors initiative, which outlined the sequence of events that had led to the meeting.

13. Norway referred to the papers of the meeting which set out a number of options to finance the CMS Raptors initiative and sought a more detailed breakdown of the costs associated with specific items within those options.

14. The UK highlighted that the UAE had been a strong advocate for the CMS Raptors initiative, particularly in the western Asian region, and had contributed significantly to the work of the committee established to prepare for this meeting. UK took the opportunity to formally thank the UAE for becoming a lead partner for the initiative.

15. The Executive Secretary of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) mentioned that the option of including some wetland birds of prey into that agreement had been raised in 1999. He asked that the possibility of linking the CMS Raptors initiative with AEWA be explored during the meeting.

16. Senegal expressed support for the proposed geographic coverage area for the CMS instrument but also requested for more information about the potential sources of funding to be used.

17. India highlighted the large birds of prey migration that occurs through the Himalayas and pointed to the need for any CMS instrument aimed at migrating birds of prey to include a strategy for conserving stop-over sites.

Agenda Item 6: Conservation status of migratory raptors in the African-Eurasian region

18. Mr. John O’Sullivan, CMS Councillor for Birds, gave a presentation outlining the conservation status of migratory birds of prey in the African-Eurasian region, the threats they face and the conservation benefits that would flow from international cooperation, such as integrated research, enhanced capacity building, innovative funding mechanisms and improved public awareness.

19. A discussion followed which highlighted the following key issues of concern to delegates:

- Ecosystems and habitats
- Bottlenecks and flyways
- Data gaps - species status and threats
- Illegal hunting and persecution
- Pesticide use and misuse
- Capacity building and raising public awareness
- Link back to traditional practices

Agenda Item 7: Options for international co-operation under CMS

20. The CMS Secretariat gave a presentation setting out options for international co-operation and highlighted the three main options for an instrument covering migratory African-Eurasian birds of prey; (1) a formal Agreement and Action Plan; (2) an MoU and Action Plan; and (3) a partnership arrangement.

21. These items were subsequently considered in the relevant Working Group.

Agenda Item 8: Elaboration of an option for international cooperation under CMS

22. Before the issue was referred to the Administrators’ Working Group, the Chairman identified three questions: (a) type of instrument; (b) how it should be run; and (c) how much will it cost, that it needed to consider and invited views from the floor.

23. A discussion took place which stressed the following issues:

- Need to move swiftly and with flexibility
- Need for a lean instrument with minimal bureaucracy
- Focus on a costed Action Plan, informed by specialist knowledge
- Need to consider short-term and long-term views
- Finances
- Action Plan

24. The overwhelming response from delegates was to agree that an agreement would bring about a conservation benefit to migratory birds of prey and that a non-legally binding agreement should be developed. A Memorandum of Understanding was the preference expressed by the majority of delegates. Some delegates felt that in the longer term there was merit in exploring the possibility of linking all the CMS daughter agreements dealing with birds. Some delegates also expressed a preference for a stand-alone action plan.

25. The Chairman asked the Administrators' Working Group to determine the type of agreement and develop an appropriate text building on the draft MoU text in meeting document UNEP/CMS/AERAP-IGM1/7. He also asked the group to consider how the agreement should be run and the financial issues associated with it.

26. The Chairman then identified the three main issues for the Scientists' Working Group to consider: (a) geographic scope; (b) species to be listed and (c) priority actions. Before formally tasking the group the following views were received from the floor:

- Importance of ecosystems including food supply and sustainable use
- Need to move forward on available science
- Habitat conservation
- Poisoning and persecution
- Potential changes in migratory behaviour due to climate change
- The proposed Action Plan will require some supporting guidance
- Some dialogue will be required between the two Working Groups

First report from Administrators' Working Group (Annex 6)

27. Mr. Gerard Boere reported that the Working Group had agreed the text of the MoU as a whole, incorporating some key changes. The intention had been to ensure consistency with other key CMS instruments and to avoid text that would be legally-binding.

28. The preamble had been re-drafted to include a new reference to awareness-raising. But certain other elements had not been included (e.g. references to sectors such as agriculture and tourism) for consideration by the other Working Group for inclusion into the Action Plan. Likewise, advice was needed from the scientists on certain taxonomic references.

29. Agreement had been reached on a new definition of Signatories to clarify the difference between the status of Range States and other supporting organisations. References to the CMS Secretariat were distinguished from the functions of the potential co-ordinating body.

30. Another important change had been the decision to adopt two working languages for the initiative, namely English and French.

First report of the Scientists' Working Group (Annex 7)

31. Mr. Issa Sylla reported that good consensus was achieved on a number of key topics and about eighty per cent of the work had been completed. The group had agreed the contents of the Action Plan but there were two issues outstanding, one relating to the absence of targets for agreed activities and secondly although some activities had been agreed in principle the details had not been finalised.

32. The Chairman thanked the Working Groups for their efforts and asked both to re-convene to allow the Scientists' Working Group to conclude its work and requested the Administrators' Group to consider the type of agreement, financial issues and geographic range.

Agenda Item 8: Elaboration of an option for international co-operation under CMS - second session (continued)

33. Following the work of the Administrators' Working Group a new draft text of an MoU had been developed. The Chairman sought further comments from delegates on whether this type of agreement reflected the views of all delegates.

34. South Africa re-stated an earlier view that whilst they recognised that the majority of delegates supported an MoU and Action Plan, and that they wouldn't stand in the way of that option, their preference was for a stand-alone Action Plan and that in the longer term they would like the MoU reviewed, including the operational and institutional arrangements for implementation with view to exploring other options.

35. Switzerland stated that as neither of the Swiss delegation's interventions in plenary on the first and second days of this meeting had been duly reflected in the report, the Swiss delegate asked that his intervention was now fully recorded in the record of the meeting.

36. It reads as follows: *The Swiss delegation came to this meeting with the objectives of identifying and elaborating the option that would best serve the conservation and sustainable management of migratory birds of prey and owls in the African-Eurasian region in the sense of a shared responsibility.*

Switzerland's main objective was and still is an acceptable and widely accepted Action Plan that can be implemented as quickly as possible. I believe that we have elaborated a good Action Plan.

Although there was no consensus for an MoU the Meeting headed towards the elaboration of such an MoU without going into a discussion of any other options. Switzerland acknowledges the fact that amongst the delegations that expressed their views there was a majority in favour of an MoU. Switzerland also acknowledges that the meeting had, before it, good documentation on the evaluation of different options. At that stage, I would like to, on behalf of the Swiss Government and personally express my warm thanks to the initiator and organisers of the very productive and fruitful meeting.

Switzerland will join the general consensus on the choice of an MoU and is satisfied with the draft text of this MoU. Nevertheless, considering that some questions remain open for deliberation, in particular the financial issues, and also depending on the progress achieved in bringing the MoU into the operative phase, and thus start the implementation of the Action Plan, it is the view of the Swiss delegation that it might be wise, at a later stage, to envisage and explore possible links to existing instruments under the CMS, amongst them the AEWA'.

37. Lebanon supported the development of an MoU but expressed a wish that its implementation be reviewed with the possibility of elevating it to a formal legally-binding agreement.

38. Portugal, on behalf of the European Union, confirmed a preference for an MoU and Action Plan and said that possible links with other agreements was a matter for the future.

39. Germany and the Netherlands underlined a growing concern in relation to the increasing number of instruments for the protection of Afro-Eurasian birds. In order to achieve more work and time efficiencies in the long-term, solutions such as changing the AEWa agreement covering waterbirds into an Afro-Eurasian Bird Agreement should be considered. However, in the short term Germany and the Netherlands hold the view that there is a need for a faster solution and in this spirit they support the creation of an MoU and Action Plan for birds of prey as a transitory measure.

40. Saudi Arabia expressed its preference for an MoU but requested that it be translated into Arabic to enable them to consider it more fully and asked the CMS Secretariat to undertake a review of MoUs under CMS.

41. The Chairman summarised the comments and it was agreed that an MoU and Action Plan be developed at this stage with the expectation that in the longer term other options be explored.

42. The meeting then proceeded to review the text of the draft MoU and agreed to the text contained in Annex 3 to this report, with a request from the Chairman that the concern over taxonomy of the Common Buzzard, as raised by Lebanon, be noted. On Annex 2 to the draft MoU, questions were raised concerning the status of the map and the Chairman reminded delegates that the map was indicative only, at this stage.

43. The meeting subsequently re-examined the draft Action Plan and agreed to the text contained in Annex 4 to this report.

Agenda Item 9 and 10: Next Steps and Conclusion from the Chair

Chairman report and next steps

44. Professor Galbraith summarised the initial steps that had led to the consideration of a potential agreement for migratory birds of prey. He pointed out that these birds are indicators of our environment as they are positioned at the top of the food chain and sensitive to changes in prey and pollutants. He added that over 50% of species within the region have a poor conservation status.

45. He mentioned that there were 106 participants at the meeting and that they agreed to a non legally-binding Memorandum of Understanding (Annex 3) with an Action Plan (Annex 4). They also agreed to the list of species and the geographical scope.

Agenda Item 11: Any other business

46. Financial issues were referred to an Inter-sessional Group, the agreed Terms of Reference which are attached as Annex 5 to this report.

47. Documents from the meeting will be circulated by the CMS Secretariat and a concluding meeting will be held in the UAE in 2008 with the outcome of the process reported to the 9th CMS Conference of the Parties in December 2008.

Report of the Credentials Committee

48. The meeting received a report from Mr. Joylon Thompson, UK, Chairman of the Credentials Committee, who advised that of the 44 Range States and REIOs attending the meeting, original credentials had been received from 28. A number of Range States had provided only copies of credentials and were requested to provide originals to the CMS Secretariat by no later than 8th November 2007 in order to be treated as having submitted full credentials. The Chairman further reported that three Range States (Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Malta) had submitted original credentials but that these had not been signed by those having sufficient authority and those Range States were also asked to submit revised originals by the same deadline. The Chairman indicated that the committee agreed that there was no need for Yemen to submit credentials since attendance by its Minister of Environment in person was sufficient evidence of the necessary authority to participate. Finally, four Range States (China, Estonia, Italy and Turkey) had not produced any credentials for the meeting, and so were unable to participate in any formal decision-making.

Next meeting

49. The UAE generously offered to host the meeting to conclude the agreement in Abu Dhabi in 2008.

Agenda Item 12: Closure of the meeting

50. The Chairman thanked the participants and meeting organisers and then closed the meeting.



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AGENDA

1. Welcoming remarks
2. Adoption of the agenda and meeting schedule
3. Election of officers
4. Establishment of credentials committee
5. Meeting overview
6. Conservation status of migratory raptors in the African-Eurasian region
7. Options for international cooperation under CMS
8. Elaboration of an option for international cooperation under CMS
9. Next steps
10. Conclusion from the Chair
11. Any other business
12. Closure of the meeting



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LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Symbol	Agenda Item(s)	Title of Document
UNEP/CMS/AERAP-IGM1/1/Rev.1	2.0	Agenda
UNEP/CMS/AERAP-IGM1/2	2.0	Annotated Agenda and Meeting Schedule
UNEP/CMS/AERAP-IGM1/3/Rev.1	2.0	List of Documents (<i>as at 16 October 2007</i>)
UNEP/CMS/AERAP-IGM1/4	5.0	Background on the CMS Raptors Initiative and Meeting Objectives
UNEP/CMS/AERAP-IGM1/5	6.0	Conservation Status of Migratory African-Eurasian Raptors and the Value-added of CMS Engagement
UNEP/CMS/AERAP-IGM1/6/Rev.2	7.0	Legal and Institutional Options under CMS for International Cooperation on Migratory African-Eurasian Raptors
UNEP/CMS/AERAP-IGM1/6/Add	7.0	Raptors: Estimated cost of institutional options involving partner organisations (BLI)
UNEP/CMS/AERAP-IGM1/7	8.0	Towards a CMS Instrument on Migratory African-Eurasian Raptors: Possible Text for Consideration: Possible text for consideration
UNEP/CMS/AERAP-IGM1/8	8.0	Towards an Action Plan on Migratory African-Eurasian Raptors: Possible Text for Consideration
UNEP/CMS/AERAP-IGM1/8/Add.1	8.0	Taxonomic Scope: Proposed List of Species
UNEP/CMS/AERAP-IGM1/8/Add.2	8.0	Geographic Scope: Proposed Agreement Area
Information Documents		
UNEP/CMS/AERAP-IGM1/Inf/1		Provisional List of Participants
UNEP/CMS/AERAP-IGM1/Inf/2		Heads of Governmental Delegations Meeting with the CMS Secretariat: Agenda
UNEP/CMS/AERAP-IGM1/Inf/3	5.0	Excerpt from CMS COP Resolution 8.5: Raptors
UNEP/CMS/AERAP-IGM1/Inf/4	5.0	CMS COP Recommendation 8.12
UNEP/CMS/AERAP-IGM1/Inf/5	5.0	Excerpt on Raptors taken from the Report of the 13 th Meeting of the CMS Scientific Council
UNEP/CMS/AERAP-IGM1/Inf/6	5.0	Resolution 3 of the VI World Conference on Birds of Prey and Owls, 18-23 May 2003, Hungary
UNEP/CMS/AERAP-IGM1/Inf/7	5.0, 6.0, 8.0	Assessment of the merits of a CMS instrument covering Migratory Raptors in Africa and Eurasia

Symbol	Agenda Item(s)	Title of Document
UNEP/CMS/AERAP-IGM1/Inf/8	6.0 8.0	Status Report on Raptors in the African-Eurasian Region
UNEP/CMS/AERAP-IGM1/Inf/9		Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and Appendices
UNEP/CMS/AERAP-IGM1/Inf/10		Climate Change and Carbon Offsetting
UNEP/CMS/AERAP-IGM1/Inf/11		Conservation of Migratory Peregrine Falcons - Resolution of 2nd International Peregrine Falcon Conference, Poland 2007
UNEP/CMS/AERAP-IGM1/Inf/12		Rules of Procedure of the Raptors Meeting

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Distr: General

UNEP/CMS/AERAP-IGM1/Report
Annex 3

Original: English

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DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY BIRDS OF PREY IN AFRICA AND EURASIA

IGM1 Final Draft as at 25 October 2007

DRAFT
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE CONSERVATION OF
MIGRATORY BIRDS OF PREY IN AFRICA AND EURASIA

(Final Draft as at 25 October 2007)

The Signatories

RECALLING that the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, signed at Bonn on 23 June 1979, calls for international co-operative action to conserve migratory species and that Article IV.4 of that convention encourages Signatories to conclude agreements – including non-legally binding administrative agreements in respect of any populations of migratory species;

NOTING that several species of Falconiformes are listed in Appendix I and all of these species in Appendix II of that Convention;

CONSIDERING that migratory birds of prey serve as high-level indicators of ecosystem health and climate change across their range;

RECOGNIZING that many populations of birds of prey migrate between and within Africa and Eurasia, crossing the territory of different countries;

CONCERNED by the considerable number of African-Eurasian migratory species of birds of prey that presently have an unfavourable conservation status at a regional and/or global level and especially by the lack of knowledge of the status and trends of migratory birds of prey in Africa and Asia;

AWARE that among the factors which contribute to the unfavourable conservation status of many African-Eurasian birds of prey species are the loss, degradation and fragmentation of habitats, increased mortality and reduced breeding success as a result of unlawful killing (including especially poisoning), unsustainable taking, human economic activities (damaging biodiversity) and land-use practices and that climate change is likely to cause further adverse effects on bird of prey populations;

MINDFUL that a range of existing multilateral environmental instruments can or do contribute to the conservation of migratory birds of prey but lack a unifying international plan of action;

CONVINCED of the need for immediate and concerted international actions to conserve African-Eurasian migratory species of birds of prey maintain and restore them in general to favourable conservation status;

UNDERLINING the need to increase awareness to conserve migratory birds of prey in the African-Eurasian region;

RECALLING Resolution No. 3 adopted by the VI World Conference on Birds of Prey and Owls held in Budapest, Hungary, 18-23 May 2003, and UNEP/CMS Recommendation 8.12 on Improving the Conservation Status of Birds of Prey and Owls in Africa and Eurasia;

REALISING the importance of involving all Range States in the region as well as relevant inter-governmental, non-governmental and private sector organisations in cooperative conservation for migratory birds of prey and their habitats;

ACKNOWLEDGING that effective implementation and enforcement of such actions will require cooperation between Range States and international and national non-governmental organisations in order to encourage research, training and awareness raising to maintain, restore, manage and monitor birds of prey.

HAVE DECIDED as follows:

Scope and Definitions

1. For the purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding:
 - a) “Birds of Prey” means migratory populations of Falconiformes and Strigiformes species occurring in Africa and Eurasia, listed in Annex 1;
 - b) “Africa and Eurasia” means Range States and territories listed in Annex 2;
 - c) “Conservation” means the protection and management, including sustainable use of birds of prey and their habitats, in accordance with the objectives and principles of this Memorandum of Understanding;
 - d) “Convention” means the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, signed at Bonn on 23 June 1979;
 - e) “Signatory” means a Signatory to this Memorandum of Understanding in accordance with Paragraph 23 below;
 - f) “Secretariat” means the Secretariat of the Convention; and
 - g) “Action Plan” means the Action Plan for the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory birds of prey contained in Annex 3.

In addition, the terms defined in Article I, sub-paragraphs 1 (a) to (i), of the Convention shall have the same meaning, *mutatis mutandis*, in this Memorandum of Understanding.

2. This Memorandum of Understanding is an agreement under Article IV, paragraph 4, as defined by Resolution 2.6 adopted at the Second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention. (Geneva, 11-14 October 1988).

3. The interpretation of any term or provision of this Memorandum of Understanding will be made in accordance with the Convention and/or relevant Resolutions adopted by its Meeting of the Signatories, unless such a term or provision is defined or interpreted differently in this Memorandum of Understanding.

4. The annexes form an integral part of this Memorandum of Understanding.

Fundamental Principles

5. The Signatories will aim to take co-ordinated measures to achieve and maintain the favourable conservation status of birds of prey throughout their range and to reverse their decline when and where appropriate. To this end, they will endeavour to take, within the limits of their jurisdiction and having regard to their international obligations, the measures specified in Paragraphs 7 and 8, together with the specific actions laid down in the Action Plan.

6. In implementing the measures specified in Paragraph 5 above, Signatories will apply the precautionary principle.

General Conservation Measures

7. The Signatories will strive to adopt, implement and enforce such legal, regulatory and administrative measures as may be appropriate to conserve birds of prey and their habitat.

8. To this end, the Signatories will endeavour to:

- a) identify important habitats, significant routes and congregatory sites for birds of prey occurring within their territory and encourage their protection, conservation, assessment, rehabilitation and/or restoration;
- b) coordinate their efforts to ensure that a network of suitable habitats is maintained or, where appropriate, established in Africa and Eurasia, in particular where such habitats extend over the territory of more than one Signatory;

- c) investigate problems that are posed or are likely to be posed by human activities or from other causes and will endeavour to implement remedial and preventative measures, including *inter alia* habitat rehabilitation and habitat restoration, and compensatory measures for loss of habitat;
- d) cooperate in emergency situations requiring concerted international action, in developing appropriate emergency procedures to improve the conservation of raptor populations and in preparing guidelines to assist individual Signatories in addressing such situations;
- e) ensure that any utilisation of birds of prey is based on an assessment using the best available knowledge of their ecology and is sustainable for the species as well as for the ecological systems that support them;
- f) take appropriate measures for the recovery and re-introduction of birds of prey native to their territory provided that such actions will contribute to their conservation;
- g) take appropriate measures to prevent the introduction into their territory of non-native birds of prey, including hybrids where this would have an adverse effect on conservation of native biodiversity;
- h) encourage research into the biology and ecology of birds of prey, including the harmonization of research and monitoring methods and, where appropriate, the establishment of joint or cooperative research and monitoring programmes;
- i) assess training requirements to implement conservation actions and, in cooperation with others where possible, develop appropriate priority training programmes;
- j) develop and maintain programmes to raise awareness and understanding of conservation issues relating to birds of prey and their habitat as well as of the objectives and provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding;
- k) exchange information and the results from research, monitoring, conservation and education programmes; and
- l) cooperate with a view to assisting each other to implement this Memorandum of Understanding, particularly in the areas of research and monitoring.

9. With a view to promoting the conservation status of birds of prey, Signatories may encourage other Range States to sign this Memorandum of Understanding.

Implementation and Reporting

10. Each Signatory will designate a contact point for all matters relating to the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding; and communicate the name and address of that contact point to the co-ordinating unit once established. Before the establishment of the co-ordinating unit such duties will be undertaken by the Secretariat.

11. Within two years of this Memorandum of Understanding becoming effective, Signatories will aim to prepare and submit to the Secretariat where appropriate a national or regional (e.g. EU) strategy or equivalent documents (e.g. Single Species Action Plans) for category 1 and, where appropriate, category 2 species in table 1 in the Action Plan.

12. The Meeting of the Signatories will be the decision-making body of this Memorandum of Understanding. The Meeting will elect a Chairman and consider for adoption the rules of procedure recommended by the Secretariat. Meetings will be arranged wherever possible to coincide with other appropriate gatherings where the relevant representatives would be present. Any agency or body technically qualified in such matters may be represented at sessions of the Meeting of the Signatories by observers, unless at least one third of the Signatories present object. Participation will be subject to the rules of procedure adopted by the Meeting.

13. The first session of the Meeting of the Signatories will be convened as soon as possible after at least three quarters of the Signatories have submitted their strategies or equivalent measures or, funds permitting, three years after the Memorandum of Understanding has become effective.

14. At the first session, the Secretariat will present an overview report compiled on the basis of all information at its disposal pertaining to birds of prey. The first session will also adopt a format for and schedule of regular progress reports on implementing the strategies or equivalent measures. At its first session the meeting will adopt a procedure for amending the Annexes to the Memorandum of Understanding and it will also make such arrangements as may be necessary for convening subsequent sessions of the Meeting of Signatories.

14bis. At its first session, the Meeting of the Signatories in collaboration with the Secretariat will establish a coordinating unit which will assist communication, encourage reporting and facilitate activities between and among Signatories, other interested states and organisations. The coordinating unit will make available to all of the Signatories all of the strategies and equivalent documents it receives, prepare an overview of progress in implementation of the Action Plan six months before the second and subsequent sessions of Signatories, and perform such other functions as may be assigned by the Meeting of Signatories. The coordinating unit will be based in the office of an appropriate national,

regional, or international organisation as agreed by consensus of the Signatories at their first session, after consideration of all offers received.

15. The Secretariat will compile the national and international progress reports and make them available to all Signatories and Range States.

16. Signatories that are also Parties to the Convention will in their national report to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention make specific reference to activities undertaken in relation to this Memorandum of Understanding.

17. The Signatories will endeavour to exchange without undue delay the scientific, technical, legal and other information needed to co-ordinate conservation measures and cooperate with other Range States, appropriate international organisations, national non-governmental organisations and scientists with a view to developing co-operative research and facilitating the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding.

18. 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 endeavour 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.

Final Provisions

19. This Memorandum of Understanding is concluded for an indefinite period.

20. This Memorandum of Understanding may be amended at any Meeting of the Signatories. Any amendment adopted will become effective on the date of its adoption by the Meeting by consensus. The Secretariat will communicate the text of any amendment so adopted to all Signatories and to all other Range States.

21. Nothing in this Memorandum of Understanding will prevent any of the Signatories adopting stricter measures for the conservation of birds of prey on its territory.

21bis. The Signatories will review at each session of the Meeting of Signatories this Memorandum of Understanding, including the operational, administrative and institutional arrangements for implementation.

22. Nothing in this Memorandum of Understanding will bind any of the Signatories either jointly or severally.

23. This Memorandum of Understanding will be open for signature indefinitely at the seat of the CMS Secretariat to all Range States of Africa-Eurasian birds of prey and to any regional economic integration organisation.

24. Inter-Governmental and international and national non-governmental organisations may associate themselves with this Memorandum of Understanding through their signature as co-operating partners, in particular with the implementation of the Action Plan in accordance with article VII, paragraph 9 of the Convention of Migratory Species.

25. This Memorandum of Understanding will become effective on the first day of the month following the date on which there are at least eight Range State Signatories including at least two each from Europe, Asia and Africa. Thereafter, it will become effective for any other Signatory on the first day of the month following the date of signature by that Signatory.

26. Any Signatory may withdraw from this Memorandum of Understanding by written notification to the Secretariat. The withdrawal will take effect for that Signatory six months after the date on which the Secretariat has received the notification.

27. The Secretariat will be the Depositary of this Memorandum of Understanding.

28. The working language for all matters relating to this Memorandum of Understanding, including meetings, documents and correspondence, will be English and French.

Signed at xxxxxxxx, on xxxxxxxx:

Signatory and Authority Represented:

Annex 1

List of African-Eurasian Migratory Birds of Prey

FALCONIFORMES

Pandionidae

Pandion haliaetus Osprey

Accipitridae

<i>Aviceda cuculoides</i>	African Baza
<i>Aviceda jerdoni</i>	Jerdon's Baza
<i>Aviceda leuphotes</i>	Black Baza
<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	European Honey-buzzard
<i>Pernis ptilorhyncus</i>	Oriental Honey-buzzard
<i>Chelictinia riocourii</i>	African Swallow-tailed Kite
<i>Milvus lineatus</i>	Black-eared Kite
<i>Milvus milvus</i>	Red Kite
<i>Milvus migrans</i>	Black Kite
<i>Haliaeetus leucoryphus</i>	Pallas's Fish-eagle
<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	White-tailed Eagle
<i>Haliaeetus pelagicus</i>	Steller's Sea-eagle
<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	Egyptian Vulture
<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	Griffon Vulture
<i>Aegypius monachus</i>	Cinereous Vulture
<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	Short-toed Snake-eagle
<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Western Marsh-harrier
<i>Circus spilonotus</i>	Eastern Marsh-harrier
<i>Circus maurus</i>	Black Harrier
<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Northern Harrier
<i>Circus macrourus</i>	Pallid Harrier
<i>Circus melanoleucos</i>	Pied Harrier
<i>Circus pygargus</i>	Montagu's Harrier
<i>Accipiter badius</i>	Shikra
<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>	Levant Sparrowhawk
<i>Accipiter soloensis</i>	Chinese Goshawk
<i>Accipiter gularis</i>	Japanese Sparrowhawk
<i>Accipiter virgatus</i>	Besra
<i>Accipiter ovampensis</i>	Ovampo Sparrowhawk
<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Eurasian Sparrowhawk
<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	Northern Goshawk
<i>Butastur rufipennis</i>	Grasshopper Buzzard
<i>Butastur indicus</i>	Grey-faced Buzzard
<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Common Buzzard
<i>Buteo oreophilus</i>	Mountain Buzzard
<i>Buteo rufinus</i>	Long-legged Buzzard
<i>Buteo hemilasius</i>	Upland Buzzard
<i>Buteo lagopus</i>	Rough-legged Hawk

<i>Buteo auguralis</i>	Red-necked Buzzard
<i>Aquila pomarina</i>	Lesser Spotted Eagle
<i>Aquila clanga</i>	Greater Spotted Eagle
<i>Aquila rapax</i>	Tawny Eagle
<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>	Steppe Eagle
<i>Aquila adalberti</i>	Spanish Imperial Eagle
<i>Aquila heliaca</i>	Eastern Imperial Eagle
<i>Aquila wahlbergi</i>	Wahlberg's Eagle
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Golden Eagle
<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>	Booted Eagle
<i>Spizaetus nipalensis</i>	Mountain Hawk-eagle

Falconidae

<i>Falco naumanni</i>	Lesser Kestrel
<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Common Kestrel
<i>Falco alopex</i>	Fox Kestrel
<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	Red-footed Falcon
<i>Falco amurensis</i>	Amur Falcon
<i>Falco eleonora</i>	Eleonora's Falcon
<i>Falco concolor</i>	Sooty Falcon
<i>Falco columbarius</i>	Merlin
<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	Eurasian Hobby
<i>Falco severus</i>	Oriental Hobby
<i>Falco biarmicus</i>	Lanner Falcon
<i>Falco cherrug</i>	Saker Falcon
<i>Falco rusticolus</i>	Gyr Falcon
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Peregrine Falcon
<i>Falco pelegrinoides</i>	Barbary Falcon

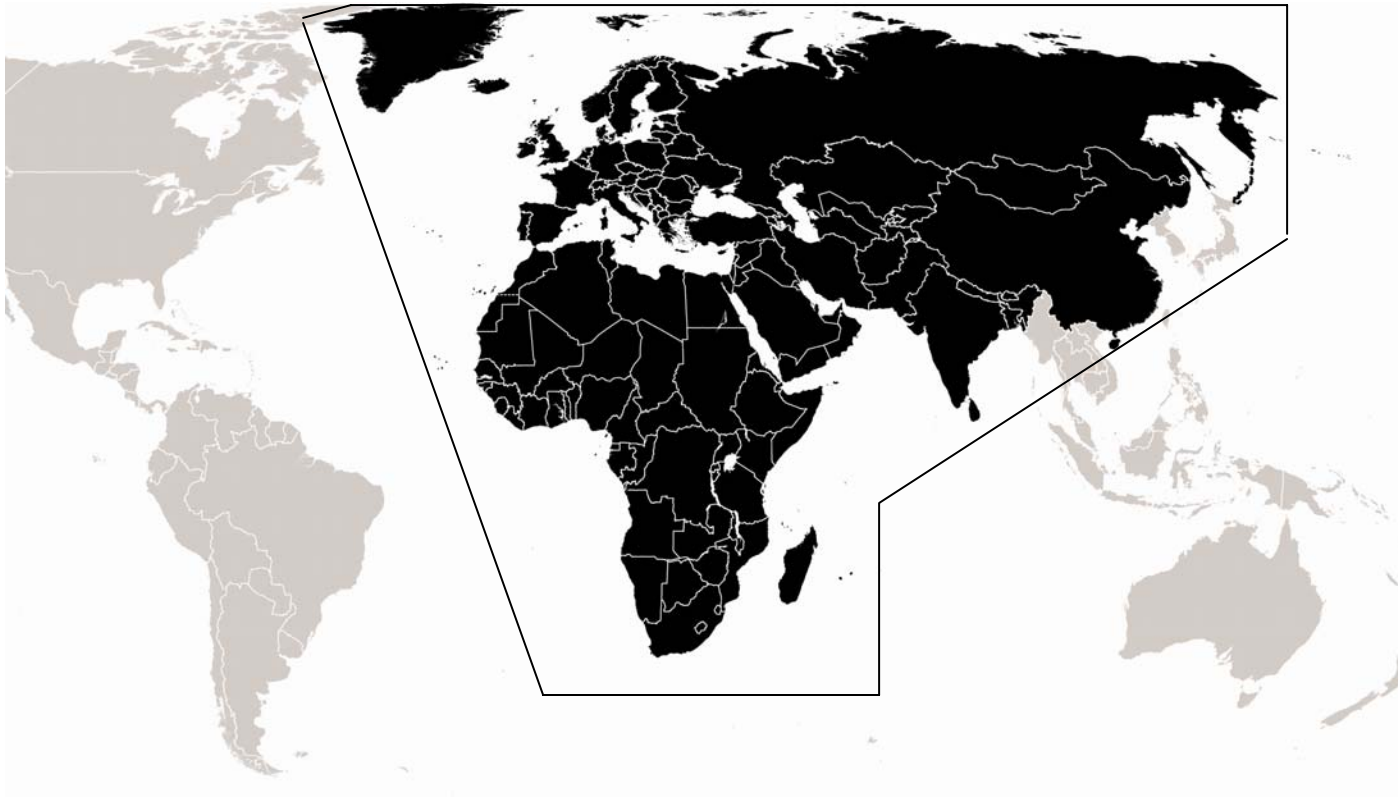
STRIGIFORMES

Strigidae

<i>Otus brucei</i>	Pallid Scops-owl
<i>Otus scops</i>	Common Scops-owl
<i>Otus sunia</i>	Oriental Scops-owl
<i>Nyctea scandiaca</i>	Snowy Owl
<i>Strix uralensis</i>	Ural Owl
<i>Strix nebulosa</i>	Great Grey Owl
<i>Surnia ulula</i>	Northern Hawk Owl
<i>Aegolius funereus</i>	Boreal Owl
<i>Ninox scutulata</i>	Brown Hawk-owl
<i>Asio otus</i>	Long-eared Owl
<i>Asio flammeus</i>	Short-eared Owl

Annex 2

Map of the area included within this Memorandum of Understanding



Only those Range States and territories listed below, and shown in black on this map, are included within the scope of this MoU.

[Boundaries of countries shown on this map are shown for information only and have no legal significance. The final version of the map in Annex 2 will show geographic outlines only].

Afrotropical realm		
Angola	Gabon	Réunion (to France)
Benin	Gambia	Rwanda
Botswana	Ghana	São Tomé and Príncipe
Burkina Faso	Guinea	Senegal
Burundi	Guinea-Bissau	Seychelles
Cameroon	Kenya	Sierra Leone
Cape Verde	Lesotho	Somalia
Central African Republic	Liberia	South Africa
Chad	Madagascar	Sudan
Comoros	Malawi	Swaziland
Congo	Mali	Tanzania
Congo, Democratic Republic of	Mauritius	Togo

Côte d'Ivoire Djibouti Equatorial Guinea Eritrea Ethiopia	Mayotte (to France) Mozambique Namibia Niger Nigeria	Uganda Zambia Zimbabwe
Paleartic realm		
Afghanistan Åland Islands (to Finland) Albania Algeria Andorra Armenia Austria Azerbaijan Bahrain Belarus Belgium Bosnia and Herzegovina Bulgaria China Croatia Cyprus Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas (to UK) Czech Republic Denmark Egypt Estonia Faroe Islands (to Denmark) Finland France Georgia Germany Gibraltar (to UK) Greece Greenland	Hungary Iceland Iran Iraq Ireland Israel Italy Jordan Kazakhstan Kuwait Kyrgyzstan Latvia Lebanon Libya Liechtenstein Lithuania Luxembourg Macedonia, FYR Malta Mauritania Moldova Monaco Mongolia Montenegro Morocco Netherlands Norway Oman Palestinian Authority Territories	Poland Portugal Qatar Romania Russia San Marino Saudi Arabia Serbia Slovakia Slovenia Spain (including the Canary Islands) Svalbard and Jan Mayen Islands (to Norway) Sweden Switzerland Syria Tajikistan Tunisia Turkey Turkmenistan Ukraine United Arab Emirates United Kingdom Uzbekistan Vatican City Yemen
Indo-Malayan realm		
Bangladesh Bhutan	India Nepal	Pakistan Sri Lanka

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CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

Distr: General

UNEP/CMS/AERAP-IGM1/Report
Annex 4

Original: English

MEETING TO IDENTIFY AND ELABORATE AN
OPTION FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
ON AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY RAPTORS
UNDER THE CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES
Loch Lomond, Scotland, United Kingdom, 22-25 October 2007

DRAFT ACTION PLAN FOR THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY BIRDS OF PREY IN AFRICA AND EURASIA

IGM1 Draft as at 25 October 2007

DRAFT
ACTION PLAN FOR THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY BIRDS OF PREY
IN AFRICA AND EURASIA

(Draft as at 25 October 2007)

1. General Aim

The general aim is to ensure that all populations of African-Eurasian migratory birds of prey (including owls) are maintained in, or returned to, Favourable Conservation Status within the meaning of Article 1(c) of the Convention.

2. Objectives

For the effective period of this Action Plan, the following objectives are set:

- a) To reverse the population declines¹ of globally threatened (Critically Endangered, Endangered and Vulnerable) and Near Threatened birds of prey and alleviate threats to them such that they are no longer globally threatened or Near Threatened;
- b) Where possible to halt and reverse the population declines of other birds of prey with an Unfavourable Conservation Status within Africa and Eurasia and alleviate threats to them in order to return their populations to Favourable Conservation Status;
- c) To anticipate, reduce and avoid potential and new threats to all bird of prey species, especially to prevent the populations of any species with a Favourable Conservation Status undergoing long-term decline.

3. Species Categories

- 3.1. The bird of prey species included in Annex 1 of this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) are assigned within the following categories:

Category 1: Globally threatened and Near Threatened species as defined according to the latest IUCN Red List and listed as such in the BirdLife International World Bird Database;

Category 2: Species considered to have Unfavourable Conservation Status at a regional level within the area of the MoU (defined in Annex 2 of this MoU);

Category 3: all other migratory species.

- 3.2. The species in Annex 1 of this MoU are assigned to the categories provided for in paragraph 3.1 as given in Table 1, for the effective period of this Action Plan, unless Table 1 is amended in accordance with a procedure to be agreed by the Signatories at the first session of the Meeting of Signatories.

¹ Population decline is taken to mean a reduction in abundance or range.

4. Actions

Taking into account the predicted impacts of threats and opportunities for reducing them, the actions for achieving the objectives given in paragraph 2 are considered to be:

- Protecting all species from unlawful killing, including poisoning and shooting, and unsustainable exploitation;
- Protecting and/or appropriately managing important sites: especially where Category 1 species breed, and all migration bottlenecks (known important sites are listed in Table 3);
- Conserving bird of prey habitats by encouraging an Ecosystem Approach to sustainable development and sectoral land use practices, as envisaged in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Ecosystem Approach (CBD V/6 and VII/11);
- Taking into account the needs of bird of prey conservation in sectors and related policies such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries, industries, tourism, energy, chemicals and pesticides, *inter alia* in accordance with CBD Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity (CBD VII/12);
- Promoting, as far as possible, high environmental standards in the planning and construction of structures to minimise their impact on species, and seeking to minimise the impact of existing structures where it becomes evident that they constitute a negative impact for the species concerned;
- Raising awareness about birds of prey, their current plight and the threats that they face, and the measures that need to be taken to conserve them;
- Assessing and monitoring of populations throughout the Range States to establish reliable population trends; conducting research to establish the impacts of threats on them and the measures that are needed to alleviate them; and, sharing information between Signatories and other Range States;
- Conducting research on species ecology and migratory behaviour, including analysing available data in order to describe flyway boundaries and migratory patterns, and routes, at the level of species' populations; and
- Building capacity for conservation actions (in relevant institutions and local communities) by developing knowledge and monitoring of birds of prey.

5. Implementation Framework

5.1. **Activities** The principal activities Signatories ought to undertake in order to implement the general provisions of the MoU and the specific issues addressed in this Action Plan are set out in Table 2. These activities will be addressed by the strategies, or equivalent documents, as envisaged by paragraph 11 of the MoU.

5.2. **Priorities** The activities in Table 2 are accorded the following orders of priority:

First: an activity needed to prevent global extinction of a species.

Second: an activity needed to prevent or reverse population declines in any globally threatened or Near Threatened species, or the majority of other species with an Unfavourable Conservation Status.

Third: an activity needed to restore populations of a globally threatened or Near Threatened species, or to prevent population declines in any species with an Unfavourable Conservation Status.

Fourth: an activity needed to restore populations in any species with an Unfavourable Conservation Status, or to prevent population declines in any species with a Favourable Conservation Status.

These priorities ought to be taken into account in the preparation of strategies, or equivalent documents, for birds of prey as envisaged under paragraph 11 of the MoU.

5.3. **Time schedule** The activities in Table 2 are accorded the following time schedules:

Immediate: an activity expected to be completed within two years from the date that the MoU has become effective for that Signatory;

Short term: an activity expected to be completed within three years from the date that the MoU has become effective for that Signatory;

Medium: an activity expected to be completed within five years from the date that the MoU has become effective for that Signatory;

Long term: an activity expected to be completed within seven years from the date that the MoU has become effective for that Signatory; and

Ongoing: an activity expected to be undertaken throughout the period that the MoU is effective for that Signatory;

5.4. **Responsibilities** The organisations expected to lead on the various activities are indicated in Table 2. Signatories are urged to encourage the full range of necessary organisations to participate in the implementation of this Action Plan whether or not they are currently Signatories to the MoU.

5.5. **Targets** The Secretariat will monitor the progress and efficacy of this Action Plan according to the performance targets for certain activities given in Table 2.

6. **Synergy with MEAs**

Insofar as a Range State or a Regional Economic Integration Organisation (REIO) Signatory which is represented as a Signatory to this Memorandum of Understanding is also Contracting Party to one or more Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) that has or have provisions that achieve or otherwise assist the aims, objectives and activities of this Action Plan, such MEAs will be applied as appropriate and to their full extent in the first instance.

7. **Progress Reports**

Signatories and the Secretariat will report on progress with implementing the Action Plan in accordance with paragraphs 11 and 13 of the MoU.

8. Period of Effectiveness

This Action Plan comes into effect on the same date as the MoU for a period of seven years. At least two years before the expiry of this period, a full review of the Action Plan will be undertaken and a revised version prepared for the approval of the Signatories.

Table 1: Categorisation of African-Eurasian birds of prey covered by the Action Plan^(1, 2)

Category 1⁽³⁾

<i>Falco naumanni</i>	Lesser Kestrel	VU
<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	Red-footed Falcon	NT
<i>Falco cherrug</i>	Saker Falcon	EN
<i>Milvus milvus</i>	Red Kite	NT
<i>Haliaeetus leucoryphus</i>	Pallas's Fish-eagle	VU
<i>Haliaeetus pelagicus</i>	Steller's Sea-eagle	VU
<i>Aegypius monachus</i>	Cinereous Vulture	NT
<i>Circus maurus</i>	Black Harrier	VU
<i>Circus macrourus</i>	Pallid Harrier	NT
<i>Aquila clanga</i>	Greater Spotted Eagle	VU
<i>Aquila adalberti</i>	Spanish Imperial Eagle	VU
<i>Aquila heliaca</i>	Eastern Imperial Eagle	VU
<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	Egyptian Vulture	EN

Category 2⁽⁴⁾

<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Common Kestrel
<i>Falco eleonora</i>	Eleonora's Falcon
<i>Falco biarmicus</i>	Lanner Falcon
<i>Falco rusticolus</i>	Gyr Falcon
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Osprey
<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>	Oriental Honey-buzzard
<i>Chelictinia riocourii</i>	African Swallow-tailed Kite
<i>Milvus migrans</i>	Black Kite
<i>Milvus lineatus</i>	Black-eared Kite
<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	White-tailed Eagle
<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	Short-toed Snake-eagle
<i>Circus spilonotus</i>	Eastern Marsh-harrier
<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Northern Harrier
<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>	Levant Sparrowhawk
<i>Butastur indicus</i>	Grey-faced Buzzard
<i>Buteo rufinus</i>	Long-legged Buzzard
<i>Buteo hemilasius</i>	Upland Buzzard
<i>Aquila pomarina</i>	Lesser Spotted Eagle
<i>Aquila rapax</i>	Tawny Eagle
<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>	Steppe Eagle
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Golden Eagle
<i>Hieraetus pennatus</i>	Booted Eagle
<i>Otus brucei</i>	Pallid Scops-owl
<i>Otus scops</i>	Common Scops-owl
<i>Nyctea scandiaca</i>	Snowy Owl
<i>Asio flammeus</i>	Short-eared Owl

Category 3⁽⁵⁾

<i>Falco alopex</i>	Fox Kestrel
<i>Falco amurensis</i>	Amur Falcon
<i>Falco concolor</i>	Sooty Falcon
<i>Falco columbarius</i>	Merlin
<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	Eurasian Hobby
<i>Falco severus</i>	Oriental Hobby
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Peregrine Falcon
<i>Falco pelegrinoides</i>	Barbary Falcon
<i>Aviceda cuculoides</i>	African Baza
<i>Aviceda jerdoni</i>	Jerdon's Baza
<i>Aviceda leuphotes</i>	Black Baza
<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	European Honey-buzzard
<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	Griffon Vulture
<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Western Marsh-harrier
<i>Circus melanoleucos</i>	Pied Harrier
<i>Circus pygargus</i>	Montagu's Harrier
<i>Accipiter badius</i>	Shikra
<i>Accipiter soloensis</i>	Chinese Goshawk
<i>Accipiter gularis</i>	Japanese Sparrowhawk
<i>Accipiter virgatus</i>	Besra
<i>Accipiter ovampensis</i>	Ovampo Sparrowhawk
<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Eurasian Sparrowhawk
<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	Northern Goshawk
<i>Butastur rufipennis</i>	Grasshopper Buzzard
<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Common Buzzard
<i>Buteo oreophilus</i>	Mountain Buzzard
<i>Buteo lagopus</i>	Rough-legged Hawk
<i>Buteo auguralis</i>	Red-necked Buzzard
<i>Aquila wahlbergi</i>	Wahlberg's Eagle
<i>Spizaetus nipalensis</i>	Mountain Hawk-eagle
<i>Otus sunia</i>	Oriental Scops-owl
<i>Strix uralensis</i>	Ural Owl
<i>Strix nebulosa</i>	Great Grey Owl
<i>Surnia ulula</i>	Northern Hawk Owl
<i>Aegolius funereus</i>	Boreal Owl
<i>Ninox scutulata</i>	Brown Hawk-owl
<i>Asio otus</i>	Long-eared Owl

Notes

- 1: Listed in Annex 1 of this MoU
- 2: Some species have uncertain migratory status and are not currently included in Annex 1 of this MoU
- 3: Globally threatened and Near Threatened species as defined by IUCN and listed on BirdLife International's World Bird Database (EN = Endangered; VU = Vulnerable; NT = Near Threatened)
- 4: Species that are considered to have Unfavourable Conservation Status at a regional level within the area (defined in Annex 2) of the MoU
- 5: All other migratory species

Table 2: Activities to be done under paragraph 5 of the Action Plan

Activities	Species	Countries	Priority Level	Time-scale	Organisations	Target
Activity 1: Improvement of legal protection						
1.1. Update CMS Appendix 1 to include all Category 1 species	Cat. 1	–	Second	Short	CMS Secretariat / CoP	CMS Appendix 1 amended
1.2. Review relevant legislation and take steps where possible to make sure that it protects all birds of prey from all forms of killing, and disturbance at nest sites and communal roost sites (particularly in wintering grounds), as well as from egg-collection and taking from the wild unless this can be shown to be sustainable	All	All	First	Immediate	Governments	All birds of prey given full protection in the relevant legislation of all Signatories and unsustainable taking of birds is prohibited
1.3 Review relevant legislation and take steps where possible to ban the use of exposed poison baits for predator control and those chemicals that have been shown to cause significant avian mortalities	All	All	First	Immediate	Governments	The relevant legislation of all Signatories bans use of exposed poison baits and those chemicals that have been shown to cause significant avian mortalities
1.4 Review relevant legislation and take steps where possible to make sure that it requires all new power lines to be designed to avoid bird of prey electrocution	All	All	Second	Short	Governments	The relevant legislation of all Signatories requires power line design to avoid electrocution
1.5 Strengthen the application of legal protection, and reporting of persecution, for birds of prey by ensuring appropriate penalties, training law enforcement authorities, and raising public awareness to boost surveillance and reporting of illegal activities	All	All	Second	Ongoing	Governments, law enforcement agencies and NGOs	Individuals breaking protection laws are prosecuted; results of prosecutions relayed to Secretariat and included in national reports
1.6 Identify gaps in existing MEAs where bird of prey protection and conservation can be improved and draw these to the attention of the relevant Secretariat and other Parties	All	All	Third	Immediate	CMS Secretariat / Governments / NGOs	Provisions of existing MEAs strengthened with respect to bird of prey protection and conservation
Activity 2: Protect and/or manage important sites and flyways						
2.1 Designate nationally and internationally important sites (including those listed in Table 3) as protected areas with management plans or as appropriately managed sites taking bird of prey conservation requirements into account	All	All countries listed in Table 3	Second	Medium	Governments, BirdLife International and site stakeholders	All important sites have conservation measures in place

Activities	Species	Countries	Priority Level	Time-scale	Organisations	Target
2.2 Require EIAs in accordance with the CBD guidelines (CBD Decision VI/7A and any subsequent amendments) and CMS Resolution 7.2 on Impact Assessment and Migratory Species for any projects potentially impacting sites listed in Table 3 and any other sites holding significant populations of Category 1 and 2 species	Cat 1 and 2	All	Third	Medium	Governments, forestry, energy and infrastructure sectors	National EIA regulations require EIAs for projects impacting bird of prey sites; results of specialist studies relating to the impacts on birds of prey in EIAs relayed to the Secretariat and included in national reports
2.3 Conduct risk analysis at important sites (including those listed in Table 3) to identify and address actual or potential causes of incidental mortality from human causes (including fire, laying poisons, pest spraying, power lines, wind turbines)	Cat. 1 and 2	All	Third	Ongoing	Governments and land managers	Incidental mortality of birds of prey reduced to insignificant levels
2.4 Conduct Strategic Environmental Assessments of planned infrastructure developments within major flyways to identify key risk areas	All	All countries with bottleneck sites	Third	Medium	Governments	SEAs carried out and results relayed to the Secretariat and included in national reports
Activity 3: Habitat conservation and sustainable management						
3.1 Survey, maintain and restore natural vegetation cover in former habitats (especially grasslands) in the range of globally threatened species	Cat. 1	All range states of Cat. 1 species	Third	Long	Government, land managers	Inventories of grassland areas supporting Cat. 1 species prepared and at least 30% of former grassland habitats having natural vegetation cover and under sustainable management
3.2 Where feasible, take necessary actions to ensure that existing power lines that pose the greatest risk to birds of prey are modified to avoid bird of prey electrocution	All species	All	Second	Medium	Governments, energy and infrastructure sectors	Highest risk power lines modified to avoid bird of prey electrocution
3.3 Endeavour to facilitate feeding opportunities for necrophagous birds of prey as far as it is possible taking into account sanitary considerations	All relevant species	All relevant countries	Second	Short	Governments in collaboration with relevant NGOs	Feeding stations established as appropriate and feasible
3.4 Taking into account the needs of bird of prey conservation in sectors and related policies such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries, industries, tourism, energy, chemicals and pesticides, <i>inter alia</i> in accordance with CBD Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity (CBD VII/12)	All	All	Second	Ongoing	Governments and relevant sectors and organisations	Conservation of birds of prey is integrated in sectors and corresponding policies

Activities	Species	Countries	Priority Level	Time-scale	Organisations	Target
Activity 4: Raise awareness of problems faced by birds of prey and measures needed to conserve them						
4.1 Develop a programme of public awareness, using electronic and print media to publicise the migrations undertaken by birds of prey, their current status, the threats to them and actions, including review of superstitions about them, that can be taken to conserve them	All species	All countries	Second	Short	Governments in collaboration with NGOs	Programme implemented, and conservation needs of birds of prey widely understood amongst public
4.2 Develop an awareness programme within forestry, agriculture, fisheries, energy, industry and transport and other relevant sectors to inform decision makers of the current status of birds of prey, the threats to them and the sectoral actions that can be taken to conserve them	All species	All	Second	Medium	Governments in collaboration with NGOs	Programme implemented, and conservation needs of birds of prey widely understood amongst government departments
4.3 Develop a school educational programme and teaching resources to inform school children of the migrations undertaken by birds of prey, their current status, the threats to them and actions that can be taken to conserve them	All species	All countries	Third	Medium	Governments in collaboration with NGOs	Programme implemented, and conservation needs of birds of prey widely understood by teachers and taught in schools
4.4 Establish information notices and provide leaflets at bottleneck sites informing people of their importance for birds of prey and the measures that they can take to conserve them	All species	All countries with bottleneck sites	Second	Short	Governments and NGOs	Programme implemented, and conservation needs of birds of prey known within bottleneck sites
4.5 Organise sub-regional and national training workshops to improve skills in the monitoring of birds of prey	All species	All countries	Second	Medium	Governments and relevant NGOs	Training programmes established
4.6 Educate and raise awareness of local communities to the importance of birds of prey, and the need to monitor and protect them	All species	All countries	Second	Medium	Governments and relevant NGOs	Training programmes established
Activity 5: Monitor bird of prey populations, carry out conservation research and take appropriate remedial measures						
5.1 Establish flyway-scale monitoring networks comprising a representative range of sites where systematic and coordinated monitoring of breeding populations and migration numbers (spring and autumn) can be undertaken	All	To be defined	First	Immediate	Governments, Birdlife International, national ornithological and relevant research organisations	Monitoring network established and adopted by Signatories
5.2 Design and undertake a coordinated monitoring programme and develop monitoring protocols based on the monitoring network established under 5.1	All	To be defined	First	Ongoing	Governments, Birdlife International, national ornithological and relevant research organisations	Monitoring guidelines / manual prepared for national and trans-boundary data collection; data relayed to the Secretariat and included in national reports; breeding and migratory population trends reliably established

Activities	Species	Countries	Priority Level	Time-scale	Organisations	Target
5.3 Assess and then address the impacts of habitat loss on breeding, passage and wintering populations of birds of prey, and identify required measures to maintain Favourable Conservation Status	Cat. 1 and 2 species	All countries	Second	Medium	Appropriate NGOs and research organisations	Habitat problems and required mitigation measures identified and addressed
5.4 Assess and then address the impacts of the use of toxic chemicals, including heavy metals (for example lead in shot pellets), on breeding, passage and wintering populations of birds of prey, and their survival, identify and then implement appropriate measures to assist in achieving and maintaining Favourable Conservation Status	All species	All countries	First	Medium	Appropriate NGOs and research organisations	Toxic chemical and heavy metal problems assessed and mitigation measures identified if required and addressed
5.5 Monitor power line and wind farm impacts on birds of prey, including through analysis of existing data such as ringing data	Cat. 1 and 2 species	All relevant countries	First	Ongoing	Governments, NGOs, relevant research organisations, and energy sectors	Programmes established to monitor the impacts of power lines and wind farms
5.6. Undertake research into the desirability of re-introducing birds of prey, and implement appropriate conservation programmes (including those involving captive breeding), where this is shown to improve their conservation status in the wild, and where these are in accord with IUCN guidelines	All species	All countries	Second	Short	Governments, NGOs and relevant conservation organisations	Re-introduction projects investigated and implemented where found to bring conservation benefit
5.7. Seek to promote appropriate programmes of captive breeding so as to alleviate the pressure of wild harvests on populations of birds of prey	All relevant species	All relevant countries	Second	Long	Governments, NGOs and relevant conservation organisations	Appropriate programmes established
5.8. Assess the scale of harvests so as to evaluate the implications for the populations concerned	All species	All countries	Second	Medium	Governments, NGOs and relevant conservation organisations	Systems of recording and reporting harvests established
5.9 Undertake relevant surveillance for diseases which may pose a threat to birds of prey populations, so as to inform conservation and management responses	All species	All countries	Second	Medium	Governments and relevant research organisations	Effective disease surveillance programmes in place
5.10 Initiate collaborative research into the effects of climate change on birds of prey and their habitats, and implement appropriate adaptation measures	All species	All countries	Second	Medium	Governments, NGOs and relevant research organisations	Climate change impacts assessed and measures implemented to facilitate adaptation

Activities	Species	Countries	Priority Level	Time-scale	Organisations	Target
Activity 6: Supporting measures						
6.1 Prepare National, Regional or Sub-Regional strategies, or equivalent documents, for birds of prey (taking into account the need for collaborative trans-boundary measures with adjacent Signatory States)	Cat. 1 and 2 species	All	Second	Immediate	Governments, national ornithological organisations	National, Regional or sub-regional strategies, or equivalent documents, describing how this Action Plan will be implemented with particular regard for Cat. 1 and Cat. 2 species submitted to the Secretariat before the first meeting of Signatories
6.2 Prepare single species action plans for all globally threatened species, taking account of existing international plans and where necessary extending them to cover the entire African-Eurasian range of each species	Cat. 1 species	All range states of Cat. 1 species	First	Medium	Governments, Birdlife International, national ornithological & relevant research organisations	Conservation plans developed, approved and being implemented for all globally threatened species
6.3 Update Tables 1 and 3 according to new information emerging from the monitoring programme	All	All	Third	Ongoing	Secretariat	On the basis of information collected and collated from the Signatories, the Secretariat proposes amendments to Tables 1 and 3 of this Action Plan for approval by the Signatories
6.4 Encourage Signatories to improve international cooperation through organising conferences, seminars and workshops concerning monitoring, scientific research and conservation activities	All	All	Second	Ongoing	Secretariat	Effective programmes of international cooperation established

Table 3: Important Bird Areas that are currently known to be important congregatory bird of prey sites in Africa and Eurasia²

These include sites that qualify according to global and regional criteria for Globally Threatened species and congregations of migratory birds.

This list should be treated as a minimum list of internationally important areas.

Bulgaria

Atanasovo lake
Mandra-Poda complex

China (mainland)

Beidaihe
Changdao Islands
Changtang plateau
Laotieshan Nature Reserve

Denmark

Gilleleje area
Hellebæk
Korshage, Hundested and surrounding sea area
Marstal Bugt and the coast of south-west Langeland
Skagen
Stevns

Djibouti

Kadda Guéini - Doumêra

Egypt

Ain Sukhna
El Qa plain
Gebel El Zeit
Ras Mohammed National Park
Suez

Finland

Merenkurkku archipelago

France

Basses Corbières
Col de l'Escrinet
Col de Lizarrieta
Etangs de Leucate et Lapalme
Etangs Narbonnais
Gorges de la Dordogne
Haute chaîne du Jura: défilé de l'écluse, Etournel et
Mont Vuache
Haute Soule : Forêt d'Irraty, Organbidexka et Pic
des Escaliers
Hautes Corbières
Hautes garrigues du Montpelliérans
Massif du Canigou-Carança
Montagne de la Clape
Montagne de la Serre
Mons et Plomb du Cantal
Pointe de Grave
Val d'Allier : Saint-Yorre-Joze
Val de Drôme: Les Ramières-printegarde
Vallée de la Nive des Aldudes-Col de Lindux

Georgia

Kolkheti
Meskheta

Gibraltar (to UK)

Rock of Gibraltar

² Based on the identification by BirdLife International

Greece

North, east and south Kithira island

Iraq

Samara dam

Israel

Cliffs of Zin and the Negev highlands

Hula valley

Jezre'el, Harod and Bet She'an valleys

Judean desert

Judean foothills

Northern Arava valley

Northern lower Jordan valley

Southern Arava valley and Elat mountains

Western Negev

Italy

Aspromonte

Cape Otranto

Costa Viola

Maritime Alps

Mount Beigua

Mount Conero

Mount Grappa

Peloritani mountains

Piave river

Jordan

Aqaba mountains

Jordan valley

Petra area

Wadi Dana - Finan

Wadi Mujib

Kuwait

Al-Jahra Pool Nature Reserve

Latvia

Slitere Nature Reserve

Lebanon

Ammiq swamp

Lithuania

Kuronian spit

Malta

Buskett and Wied il-Luq

Morocco

Cap Spartel - Perdicaris

Jbel Moussa

Palestinian Authority Territories

Jericho

Northern Lower Jordan Valley

Portugal

South-west coast of Portugal

Russia

Caucasus Biosphere Reserve

Chudsko-Pskovski Lake and adjacent areas

Delta of the River Don

Irendyk ridge

South Baikal migratory corridor

Teberdinski Nature Reserve

Saudi Arabia

Taif escarpment

Wadi Jawwah

Wadi Rabigh springs

Spain

Bujeo, Ojén, del Niño and Blanquilla mountain ranges

Cabras, Aljibe and Montecoche mountain range
Cadí mountains
Ceuta
De la Plata mountain range
Guadalquivir marshes
La Janda
Roncesvalles-Irati-Abodi mountain range
Tarifa

Sweden

Bay of Skälderviken
Falsterbo-Bay of Foteviken

Switzerland

Pre-alpine region of Gurnigel

Syria

Jabal Slenfeh

Tunisia

Djebel el Haouaria

Turkey

Bosporus
North-east Turkey
Nur mountains

Yemen

Al-Kadan area
Bab al-Mandab - Mawza
Mafraq al-Mukha
Wadi Rijaf



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

Distr: General

UNEP/CMS/AERAP-IGM1/Report
Annex 5

Original: English

MEETING TO IDENTIFY AND ELABORATE AN
OPTION FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
ON AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY RAPTORS
UNDER THE CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES
Loch Lomond, Scotland, United Kingdom, 22-25 October 2007

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE INTER-SESSIONAL WORKING GROUP IN FINANCIAL MATTERS

Objectives

1. The working group shall produce a paper on options, taking account of information on alternatives already presented in IGM1/6/Rev1 and IGM1/6/add and in the report of the Working Group on administrative matters for funding a coordination unit to service the MoU. This should amongst other things cover location, size and responsibilities. It should also explore possible offers for hosting a secretariat from a government, non-government or inter-governmental organization. The paper shall be made available to range states and interested organizations two months before the meeting to finalise the Memorandum of Understanding on the conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey opens.
2. The working group will identify the costs associated with the activities to be taken forward by the coordinating unit as well as the costs of meetings and other associated activities as foreseen by the Memorandum of Understanding, (including the Action Plan).
3. The working group will consider currency denominations for the potential agreement and provide a recommendation, having regard to the potential location on of the coordinating unit.
4. The working group shall examine mechanisms such as in-kind contributions employed in other sectors involved in international activities, to see if any existing models might be used.

Membership

5. The working group shall contain at least one representative from Africa, one from Asia and one from Europe. One international non-governmental organization may also serve on the group. The group will comprise no more than seven members in total. The group will identify its own chair.
6. Any range state or organization that is represented on the working group will not be bound by the recommendations that emerge from the group.

7. The working group will be serviced by the CMS Secretariat.

Timescale

8. The working group will provide a forecast of expenditure for a three year period starting on 1 January 2009 and a narrative explaining the reasons for the provisions against each budget line activity.
9. The work will be concluded by the end of March 2008.

S:_WorkingDocs\Species\Raptors\IGM_Scot_Oct07\REPORT\Annex_5_Terms_of_Reference.doc

CMS Raptors IGM – October 2007

Report of the Administration Working Group chaired by Gerard Boere

Text of the Memorandum of Understanding

Gerard Boere welcomed participants to the Working Group and briefly introduced the three topics to be considered: the draft text of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU); the proposed geographical scope of the MoU; and, the associated financial issues. He made the general point that all international conservation treaties are important because even though they don't actually affect the species themselves, they do force countries to talk to each other.

South Africa referred back to the plenary session and stated that their preference was for a stand alone Action Plan but recognised that most other Range States were supportive of the MoU route. The representative was willing to accept the view of the majority but wished to record South Africa's concern about the proliferation of such agreements and the resources required to resource them.

Switzerland was not opposed to following the MoU route but explained that the key aim was to find a fast and efficient way to deliver and implement the Action Plan. The representative suggested that the proposal to merge the Raptors agreement with another CMS instrument (for example, the African-Eurasian Waterbirds Agreement – AEWA) had not yet been fully explored.

Germany expressed understanding of the positions articulated by South Africa and Switzerland and believed in the long run that some streamlining of CMS instruments would be the best solution. However, that was a long-term objective and taking account of the need to act rapidly, Germany considered that the MoU route was the best way forward now to deliver raptor conservation.

The United Kingdom (UK) was sympathetic to idea of considering options for future streamlining of CMS agreements to ensure the most effective use of resources. However, the representative explained that the UK did not wish any commitments to be made at this stage for the Raptors initiative to be linked with AEWA or any other CMS instrument. Nonetheless, the UK would be prepared to discuss these issues in the future.

The Chairman confirmed that discussions about the possibility of streamlining various CMS instruments were beyond the scope of the Working Group. He explained that the views of the delegations would be noted in the report but that the Working Group should concentrate its attentions on considering the three issues he'd set out at the beginning, as tasked by the plenary session.

The CMS Secretariat stated that a MoU is a flexible form of agreement within the Convention. It differs from a formal Agreement in that there are no obligatory annual financial contributions required from the parties. A MoU is an instrument of co-operation between states (including non-party states) and can actively facilitate the effective delivery of an Action Plan.

The UK pointed out that an Agreement is a term used for a legally binding agreement between states. Outside of CMS a MoU is not generally considered to be legally binding. However, the key point is the language used in the document. Agreements tend to be expressed using the terms 'agree' and 'shall' whereas the word 'decide' is more appropriate for use in MoUs, which are both morally and politically binding.

France proposed that the future working languages for the MoU should be English and French. This proposal was agreed unanimously by the Working Group.

India requested more information about existing MoUs established under CMS. The Secretariat responded by briefly highlighting the MoUs relating to elephants, small cetaceans, South American grassland birds, flamingos, species of marine turtles, dugongs, the Monk Seal, Saiga Antelope, Siberian Crane, Great Bustard and Aquatic Warbler.

The Chairman noted the need to learn from existing MoUs. He then carefully led the Working Group through the draft document, paragraph by paragraph, collecting, considering and agreeing various amendments to the format and text. A final revised version was agreed unanimously by the Working Group and was later circulated to all delegates for discussions and acceptance in Plenary

Geographical scope

The Chairman introduced the session and referred participants to paper IGM1.

Germany noted that the Cape Verde Islands were included but questioned why the Seychelles and Comores Islands were not.

NatureBureau (authors of the report) explained that the proposed boundaries had been developed for practical reasons with the aim of delivering significant raptor conservation benefits.

BirdLife International suggested that it might be wise to check the actual distribution of migratory raptors before inviting other states to be involved to avoid creating unnecessary difficulties.

Germany and India both proposed that all the range states within the geographic boundary should be invited and that they could then decide for themselves whether or not they wished to be involved. This proposal was agreed unanimously by the Working Group.

A short discussion followed concerning the specific references and/or the names given to certain states or disputed territories. The Chairman concluded that these geo-political issues were not for the Working Group to resolve and suggested that the CMS Secretariat be asked to resolve this. This proposal was agreed unanimously by the Working Group.

Financial issues

The Chairman introduced the issue and referred to two documents: IGM1/6/Rev1 and IGM1/6/Add. These papers presented funding estimates for operating a MoU and Action Plan by means of full United Nations (UN) staffing and non-UN staffing, with examples for both developed and developing countries. In addition, BirdLife International had calculated estimated costs for the same options involving them as a partner organisation. With only an hour of discussion time left, the Chairman recognised that it was unlikely that the Working Group could resolve all the outstanding issues.

The Chairman anticipated that perhaps only 70-75% of funds would be secured in the first triennium. He also pointed out that approximately 5% of the programme costs would be required to hire office space but if the Coordinating Unit was to be hosted in Bonn it would be free of charge because the German government generously funds accommodation for CMS.

The CMS Secretariat confirmed that the estimates had been carefully considered and were realistic but that it was not possible to provide absolute certainty as the figures were predictions. Clearly there were potential savings to be made depending upon the location and staffing of the MoU Coordinating Unit. The level of CMS oversight could also be varied depending on the capacity provided by the Coordinating Unit.

BirdLife International stated that the Addendum paper should not be seen as a formal bid from its organisation, rather a guide of what might be required if the partner organisation route was selected. Estimations were based on BirdLife's experience of employing staff in Africa, Eastern Europe and Brussels. The Birdlife representative noted that non-Government organisations are often able to attract young and enthusiastic staff who are prepared to work for lower salaries, but that they do tend to move onwards and often upwards more quickly.

The UK thanked both the CMS Secretariat and BirdLife International for producing the financial papers. The representative stated that there were too many issues to be addressed by the Working Group in the time available but, subject to the views of the other delegations, an Inter-sessional Working Group could be established to consider the issues in more detail.

Germany suggested that it might be best to exclude the stand-alone options for the Coordination Unit to ensure that there could be staff available at all times (not continually being drawn away at meetings).

Switzerland considered that no real funding decisions could be made by the Working Group and requested more information be provided about the options which could be further considered by delegations when they returned home.

The Netherlands asked if an inter-Governmental body could be staffed by non-UN employees and pointed out that there was no information in the papers about how and from where the necessary funds would be acquired.

The CMS Secretariat stated that if a country provided a Coordination Unit (with oversight from the Secretariat) then those staff would attract salaries at the appropriate national level (not the UN rate). It was pointed out that the estimated costs should be seen as maxima because there may be several ways of reducing

costs depending upon the type and level of contributions received from Range States.

Norway expressed support for the establishment of an Inter-sessional Working Group and the development of associated Terms of Reference. The Inter-sessional Working Group could be tasked to review the options more closely and also to make approaches to potential parties who might be willing to facilitate or host an interim Coordination Unit.

The UK, with the assistance of the Chairman, offered to draft some Terms of Reference for the proposed Inter-sessional Working Group for discussion and acceptance in Plenary. This proposal was agreed unanimously by the Administration Working Group.

NPW – 14 December 2007

CMS Raptors IGM – October 2007

Report of the Action Plan Working Group chaired by Issa Sylla

Text of the Action Plan

This report notes the main agreements on text and issues discussed during the sessions of the Action Plan (AP) Working Group. Where agreement was reached, changes were made to the text on screen. For some, text changes were discussed in small contact groups and then considered and accepted in the later plenary sessions of the Action Plan Working Group.

The Chairman, Issa Sylla, welcomed participants to the Action Plan Working Group. He suggested that the best approach was for the group to work through the document discussing text item by item.

1. General aim

Ethiopia recommended that the AP should not be restricted to the raptors mentioned in Annex 1 of the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), and that the wording should allow for other species to be added. There was general agreement that wording needed to be flexible enough to allow the list of species in Annex 1 to be amended. Portugal/EU clarified that the Annex 1 list should be of all birds of prey that are migratory in Europe, Africa & Asia. The Chairman noted the need to keep the general aim simple and the wording on the Annex 1 list to be clarified in section 3.

There was concern that the Annex 1 text should not be 'closed', and there was some confusion about the source of the list. This issue was not resolved at this point of the discussion. The Chairman noted that the list must be agreed by IUCN.

2. Objectives

There was confusion about the use of the terms ‘Globally Threatened’ and ‘Near Threatened’. BirdLife International explained that IUCN Red List categories of ‘Vulnerable’, ‘Critically Endangered’, and ‘Threatened’ (using capital letters) but are collectively known as ‘globally threatened’ (in lower case), whereas ‘Near Threatened’ is a separate category and so has capital letters. The Chairman noted that the text needed to be clarified in light of this explanation from BirdLife International..

3. Species categories

Para 3.2 – Portugal/EU asked for changes to be made to Table 1, to the following species categories:

Egyptian Vulture <i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	CAT 2 →	CAT 1
Montagu’s Harrier <i>Circus pygargus</i>	CAT 3 →	CAT 2
Marsh Harrier <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	CAT 3 →	CAT 2

Changes to the status of Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus* was accepted, since this reflected a recent change to the IUCN Red List status for the species (recently categorised as Endangered). Proposed changes to the status of Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* and Montagu’s Harrier *C. pygargus* were not accepted.

4. Priority actions

There was considerable discussion on the actions required which resulted in several changes and additions to the text. A contact group, led by IUCN, agreed to develop new text on habitat issues. Senegal asked and provided text for a new bullet point added on capacity building. A new bullet was point added on the need to adopt an Ecosystem Approach. A new bullet point was added on recreational uses of raptors. A new bullet point was added on research. A new bullet points was added on the need to consider impacts of structures such as power lines.

5. Implementation Framework

Portugal/EU noted that an MoU would not be legally binding, and so requested that the text was changed to reflect this throughout the document. For example, the term 'as required' should be changed to 'as envisaged'.

There was discussion on including threats to 'range' in paragraph 5.2. Wording for a footnote to add in places of document with reference to range was developed and accepted.

Minor text changes were discussed under sections 6, 7 and 8.

Table 1. Categorisation of African-Eurasian raptors covered by the Action Plan

There were proposals for several species additions to Table 1:

- Kazakhstan proposed to add Himalayan Griffon Vulture *Gyps himalayensis* to Category 1.
- Kenya proposed adding Rüppell's Griffon Vulture *Gyps rueppellii* (NT) and Lappet-faced Vulture *Aegypius tracheliotus* (VU) to Category 1.
- White backed Vulture *Gyps africanus* (NT). To add to Category 1.

These proposals were not accepted, and there was considerable discussion on the process for adding species to list. The main points included:

- A need for clarification on what is 'migratory'. BirdLife International noted that technical migrants (i.e. species who show local, short-distance or temporary movements across political boundaries) should not be included.
- A proposal from the Chairman that the CMS GROMS/BirdLife International list should be used and additions should be agreed through GROMS revision process. But there were concern that not all countries are signatories to CMS.
- A proposal that the Action Plan should indicate concerns about the species where new information was becoming evident, and under consideration for addition to list. Kenya proposed adding Category 4 species – which would list those under consideration - to the list. The Chairman's compromise was a proposal that a footnote should be added to Table 1 on species under review and this was accepted.

The Chairman noted the need to share information and reach agreement, and the need to trust the group of experts in providing the list. Proposals should be taken forward at the next meeting.

Table 2. Activities to be done under paragraph 5 of the Action Plan

The text was discussed and considered in light of additional actions identified under section 4. A small contact group was asked to provide text to link the new text in section 4. This was discussed and accepted later in the session.

The issues requiring most discussion included:

- Portugal/EU raised a proposal to add text on use of hybrids in falconry, the proposal was withdrawn after further discussion pending conclusions from the CMS Working Group on this issue. At some stage in the future it may be appropriate to return to this.
- UAE proposed to add text on modifying power lines that pose a risk to raptors, but Lebanon and Ethiopia noted concern that it would very difficult and expensive for some countries to modify power lines. Portugal/EU noted that focus should be on those power lines which pose the greatest risk.
- Israel noted concern about lead pellet poisoning. It was noted, however, that there are other heavy metal poisons of concern also.
- Pakistan requested that the word 'national' be changed to 'relevant institutions' throughout the document as the term has different meanings in different countries especially in relation to how governments are organised within federal states.

Table 3. Important Bird Areas

There was considerable discussion on how the list was produced. The Chairman noted however, that this list is a starting point and should be revised in light of new information to be provided by countries. Portugal/EU noted the need to link Table 3 with the actions.

Sally Johnson

Scottish National Heritage

19/12/2007



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

Distr: General

UNEP/CMS/AERAP-IGM1/Report
Annex 8

Original: English

MEETING TO IDENTIFY AND ELABORATE AN
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UNDER THE CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES
Loch Lomond, Scotland, United Kingdom, 22-25 October 2007

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