



UNEP/CMS OFFICE – ABU DHABI

United Arab Emirates

The Interim Coordinating Unit for the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors MoU)

PRESS RELEASE

15 May 2012

France and Slovakia sign the UNEP/CMS Raptors MoU during the 5th Meeting of Parties of the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement held at La Rochelle in France

La Rochelle, 15 May 2012 – France and the Slovak Republic signed the UNEP/CMS Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors MoU). The Signing Ceremonies took place during the 5th Meeting of Parties of the UNEP African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), which is being held this week at La Rochelle in France.

The UNEP/CMS Raptors MoU was signed by Ambassador Jean-Pierre Thébault, on behalf of the Government of France on Monday, 14 May. France hosts significant breeding and wintering populations of many of the migratory birds of prey covered by the Raptors MoU, and is also located on a major raptor flyway.

Prior to the AEWA meeting, the Interim Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MoU co-organized, with the League for the Protection of Birds (LPO) Aquitaine, a highly successful bird-watching event at la pointe de Grave to celebrate World Migratory Bird Day – see <http://www.worldmigratorybirdday.org>. A group of over 50 enthusiasts enjoyed a spectacular migration experience witnessing the passage of many tens of thousands of birds, including several hundred migratory raptors.

Slovakia became the 40th Signatory State of the Raptors MoU on Tuesday, 15 May. Rastislav Rybanič, Director General within the Division of Nature Protection and Landscape Development in the Ministry of Environment, signed on behalf of the Government of the Slovak Republic. Slovakia also holds important breeding populations of many raptors, including threatened species such as the Saker Falcon (*Falco cherrug*), Red-footed Falcon (*Falco vespertinus*) and Eastern Imperial Eagle (*Aquila heliaca*).

The UNEP/CMS Raptors MoU will become effective in both France and Slovakia on 1 June 2012.



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Note to editors:

The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) works for the conservation of a wide array of endangered migratory animals worldwide through the negotiation and implementation of agreements and action plans. CMS, which acts under the auspices of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), is a rapidly expanding global biodiversity convention with special expertise in the field of migratory species. At present, there are 116 Parties to the Convention.

For more information please visit: <http://www.cms.int>

The UNEP/CMS Office - Abu Dhabi oversees the implementation of two agreements – the UNEP/CMS Memorandum of Understanding on African-Eurasian Migratory Birds of Prey (Raptors MoU), and Dugongs and their habitats throughout their range. The Raptors MoU, administered by an Interim Coordinating Unit, came into force on 1 November 2008 and already has 40 Signatories and 3 Cooperating Partners (BirdLife International, International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey, and the CMS Secretariat). The UNEP/CMS Office - Abu Dhabi is hosted by the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi on behalf of the Government of the United Arab Emirates.

Current Signatories to the UNEP/CMS Raptors MoU are (15 May 2012): Angola, Armenia, Belgium, Burundi, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, European Union, Finland, France, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Guinea, Hungary, Italy, Kenya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mali, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Portugal, Romania, Senegal, Slovak Republic, South Africa, Sudan, Togo, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and Yemen.

For more information on the UNEP/CMS Raptors MoU please visit:

<http://www.cms.int/species/raptors>

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