

**INVITATION
THIRD MEETING OF SIGNATORIES TO THE RAPTORS MOU MOS3**

24 April 2023

Dear Signatories, Cooperating Partners, and Observers,

The Coordinating Unit of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors MOU) hereby invites you to the Third Meeting of Signatories to the Raptors MOU (MOS3) that will be hosted by the United Arab Emirates.

The Meeting shall bring together the 61 Signatories and five Cooperating Partners to the Raptors MOU to review progress on its implementation, celebrate successes, and define future priorities.

Of note, the Meeting shall review proposed amendments to the [MOU Text and its Annexes](#), including the MOU’s [Action Plan](#), the [list of species covered by the MOU](#) and their priority ranking (Table 1 of the Action Plan), and the list of sites known to be of international importance for African-Eurasian migratory birds of prey (Table 3 of the Action Plan). The Meeting shall also review a ground-breaking first analysis of the conservation status of the 93 species listed under the Raptors MOU.

MOS3 will provide the chance for relevant inter-governmental, non-governmental and private sector organizations, as well as interested non-Signatory Range States to attend as observers, share conservation initiatives and lessons learnt from them, all in view of promoting cooperation for the conservation of migratory birds of prey and their habitats.

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Meeting Dates and Venue

As announced via [Notification to the Parties 2023/002](#), MOS3 will take place from 3 to 6 July in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

The Meeting will be held at the Sheraton Mall of the Emirates Hotel in Dubai. Additional information on the meeting venue, on accommodation and transport options, as well as other practical information for visitors to the United Arab Emirates have been shared with participants by email and can be found [here](#).

Participant Registration

All participants are required to register in order to participate in the Meeting. Registration must be done online at <https://meetings.cms.int/meetings/RaptorsMOUMOS3/registration> by no later than **24 May 2023**. Registration after that date will not be possible.

Limited funds have been set aside to sponsor single representatives of eligible countries (please refer to document [UNEP/CMS/Resolution 13.2](#), paragraph 9), and **priority for funding shall be granted to representatives of Signatories on a *first come, first served* basis.**

Representatives of eligible countries are encouraged to register as soon as possible to ensure that all necessary travel and visa arrangements may be completed in due time.

Credentials

As per Rule 5 of the [Rules of Procedure for Meetings of Signatories to the Raptors MOU](#) adopted at the Second Meeting of Signatories (MOS2, Trondheim, October 2015), Heads of Delegations, any Alternative Representatives, and other members of the delegations of Signatories must be granted permission to fully represent the respective Signatories and vote at the Meeting.

Rule 5.1 states that the above permission must be granted by, or on behalf of, an appropriate authority, being the Minister of the focal Ministry for the MOU or a higher body, or the competent authority of any Regional Economic Integration Organization (REIO).

The above credentials must be submitted to the Coordinating Unit in one of the two working languages of the MOU (English and French) or otherwise accompanied by an official translation into one of those languages. **A scanned copy of the letter of credentials should be submitted to cmsoffice.ae@cms.int, with copy to karima.aoukili@un.org by 3 June 2023. The original letter of credentials must be presented at the registration desk upon arrival at the Meeting venue.**

A template letter of credentials that Signatories may wish to use is available on the webpage of the Meeting, [here](#).

Meeting Documents

All meeting documents shall be published on the webpage of the Meeting (<https://www.cms.int/raptors/en/meeting/third-meeting-signatories-raptors-mou>) as they become available, and in any case no later than 30 days before the start of the Meeting as per Rule 2.5 of the Rules of Procedure adopted at MOS2.

All meeting documents will be published in both English and French, the two working languages of the Raptors MOU.

Code of Conduct for the Meeting

The CMS Office – Abu Dhabi is committed to promoting a work environment that is free of discrimination, harassment, abuse of authority, and sexual abuse and exploitation, and where all people behave with integrity and treat others with dignity and respect.

Events organised, hosted or sponsored under CMS are guided by the highest ethical and professional standards.

All participants to MOS3 are expected to behave with integrity and respect towards all other persons attending or involved with the Meeting. Discrimination, harassment, including sexual harassment, abuse of authority, and sexual abuse and exploitation will not be tolerated at the Meeting.

Participants are invited to review carefully the document [Code of Conduct for Events Organised under CMS](#) and its attached ***Code of Conduct to Prevent Harassment, Including Sexual Harassment, at UN System Events***, which will apply to MOS3.

Application for Side-Events and Exhibits

Signatories, Cooperating Partners, and other stakeholders are encouraged to actively contribute to the success of the Meeting by presenting their work or issues of interest by hosting a side-event (e.g., workshop, presentation, debate) or an exhibit (e.g., pull-up banner, poster, small exhibition booth).

To apply to host any of the above, a form must be completed and submitted to the Coordinating Unit **by no later than 3 May 2023**. The relevant forms are available on the webpage of the Meeting, [here](#) (Side-Events) and [here](#) (Exhibits).

Visas to Enter the United Arab Emirates

For information concerning visa requirements for entering the United Arab Emirates, participants may consult <https://u.ae/en/information-and-services/visa-and-emirates-id/do-you-need-an-entry-permit-or-a-visa-to-enter-the-uae>.

The Coordinating Unit can issue personalised invitation letters to support representatives that need to apply for an entry visa. If required, such request must be indicated when registering via the [online registration form](#).

Interpretation

English and French are the two working languages of the Raptors MOU. Accordingly, **interpretation shall be available during all plenary sessions of the Meeting.**

Relevant Deadlines

Relevant deadlines pertaining to MOS3 are presented below:

Deadline	Time before MOS (days)	Event	Reference
3 February 2023	150	Submission by Signatories of proposed amendments accompanied by rationale and, if appropriate, supporting scientific evidence	ROP ,
4 April 2023	90	Submission by the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) of proposed amendments accompanied by rationale and, if appropriate, supporting scientific evidence	Rules16.3(a), 16.3(b)
3 May 2023	61	Application for Side-Events and Exhibits	-
4 May 2023	60	Submission by Signatories and TAG of comments on proposed amendments	ROP , Rules 16.3(c), 16.3(d)
24 May 2023	40	Participant registration deadline	-
3 June 2023	30	Documents for MOS made available	ROP , Rule 2.5
3 June 2023	30	Submission by delegates of electronic copy of credentials	-
3 July 2023	0	Handover by delegates of original copy of credentials at registration desk	-
3-6 July 2023	0	Raptors MOU MOS3	-

Queries

In the case of remaining queries, please contact the Coordinating Unit at cmsoffice.ae@cms.int.