



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

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Agenda Item 8

“CMS – A CONVENTION THAT WORKS”

Overview of CMS Secretariat Activities 2006-8

SUMMARY

CMS is approaching the end of a successful triennium in which many of the targets set in the Strategic Plan have been reached, particularly for new species agreements, accessions, donor funding, and outreach. The Convention's permanent staff levels have remained unchanged since 2002 and need to be adjusted to reflect the substantial increase in Parties, programmes and species agreements relative to 2002 levels.

Where did we start ?

1. The 8th Conference of Parties in November 2005 established challenging targets for the Convention, including the Secretariat, outlined in the current Strategic Plan for 2006-11. COP8 also passed 29 Resolutions and Recommendations, and over 50 similar decisions taken at previous COPs remained active, adding to the overall workload. In combination, these mandates identified a total of at least 150 distinct programme activities for the Secretariat during the period 2006-8. These included 15 new species agreements or instruments. The triennial budget for 2006-8 financed by Parties' subscriptions totalled €6.62m, which included €681,000 for activities, on the understanding that a further sum of at least €5m would have to be raised by voluntary contributions in order to carry out the mandates satisfactorily.

2. CMS staffing levels were set at 18 full-time posts¹, one less than the staff complement agreed at the previous COP in 2002 when there were 14% fewer Parties than in November 2005.

How did we raise resources to undertake the mandates ?

3. The Secretariat gave a high priority to fundraising, especially in 2006, in order to provide resources for planned activities on the negotiation of new agreements, capacity building initiatives, conservation projects, scientific publications and workshops, and awareness-raising. The centrepiece of the campaign to raise additional funds from Governments was the preparation and regular updating of a costed menu of more than 70 projects of which more than 25 were also covered by detailed project proposals.

¹ In addition to two Junior Professional Officers to be provided by donor states.

The Secretariat disseminated this list widely, e.g. via individual letters to all potential donor Parties, and held a special fundraising meeting “CMS on the Move to 2010: Priorities in Implementing the Programme of Work 2007-2008” in Bonn (September 2006), attended by 11 Parties. As a result, the Convention obtained resources in 2006-8 including pledges, totalling €3.5m² towards 50 individual projects, donated by Governments. This represented an increase of 330 % compared with Governmental donations in 2003-5.

4. In parallel, the Convention raised resources equivalent to €1.2m³ through partnerships with private and voluntary bodies. Conf 9.31 on Fundraising and Conf 9.28 on the CMS Budget 2006-8 provide further information, including details of individual project allocations and donors.

5. The switch to using the € for Parties’ subscriptions from 1 January 2006 onwards has had a major and positive impact on CMS financing. Over the period 2006-8, it is estimated that this increased funds available by approximately 18% in real terms. However such a significant increment should not be assumed in future years.

How did we plan and monitor our work to implement the mandates?

6. The Secretariat designed and implemented a new integrated format for annual workplans in each of the years 2006, 2007 and 2008. The format relates all activities to the objectives, targets and indicators in the Strategic Plan and/or specific COP Resolutions and Recommendations. Each activity is prioritised (High, Medium or Low). The Plan sets out staff and financial resources available for each activity. After the completion of the year’s work, a revised version titled “Work Plan and Performance” is prepared which shows the Secretariat’s self-assessment of the achievement on each activity.⁴

7. In addition, we conducted two staff surveys in January 2007 and June 2008 to assess time being spent on each of the main 33 target areas identified in the Strategic Plan. The survey returns were then compared with the original plan submitted to Parties at COP8 (CMS/Conf 8.9 Annex B7). The overall results are given in paper Inf. 9.18.

What were the main achievements in implementing the mandates?

8. The Secretariat’s self assessment for the four objectives in the Strategic Plan is as follows:

Objective 1: To ensure that the conservation and management of migratory species is based on the best available information

9. Scientific and technical achievements were *good* after allowing for limited project resources. The main *successes* with regards to CMS Appendices were the preparation of 10 new draft species listing proposals for COP9 and the organisation of a Scientific Council in March attended by over 70 participants, which contributed to the 24 species listings which were eventually submitted by range states for COP9. Further successes included the preparation of technical reports on alien species (ongoing), freshwater fish (ongoing), sharks and North West African antelopes; development of two migratory species indices and associated sub-indices; development

² This sum includes € 1.9m provided by the European Commission to support the CMS Sahelo-Saharan Antelope Project in Niger and Chad – the first major grant ever obtained by CMS from the EC.

³ This sum divides into € 34,000 in financial support, and services valued at € 1.2 m from in-kind services e.g. staff, websites and publications.

⁴ Copies of CMS Work and Performance Plans are submitted to the Standing Committee and publicly available on www.cms.int/bodies/StC_mainpage.htm

of six new International Single Species Action Plans; the increased influence of the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza which held 10 teleconferences, opened a website, expanded its membership to 14 UN and IGO/NGO bodies, published an advisory brochure in 7 languages, convened two scientific seminars in Nairobi and Scotland, UK (and published the results); the development of a common information portal with other MEAs via a UNEP/WCMC project; and improvements to the CMS reporting format introduced in early 2008. Elsewhere, resource and other constraints led to *limited progress* on several scientific projects including the population status of Appendix I species, the effects of bycatch, and barriers to migration. Projects to introduce full on-line, continuous reporting and to integrate GROMS within IMS could not be implemented through lack of resources.

Objective 2: To ensure that migratory species benefit from the best possible conservation measures

10. This objective includes all core work on regional species agreements and Appendix I species projects. Achievements were *outstanding*. 5 new regional agreements were negotiated at range state meetings organised by the Secretariat and came into force during the triennium covering South Pacific cetaceans; South American Grassland Birds; Atlantic Monk Seal; the Dugong; and the Gorilla (treaty format). 2 other agreements on the Ruddy-headed Goose and Saiga Antelope also came into force. 3 more on Andean Flamingos, Afro-Eurasian Raptors and West African small cetaceans were at an advanced stage of negotiations bringing the total to *10 new agreements*. Range states also reached agreement in principle in Seychelles in December 2007 that there should be a new CMS instrument for endangered migratory sharks, and draft texts will be considered at a 2nd meeting in Rome immediately following COP9. In addition, CMS led a revival of the West African Turtles MoU, including the organisation of a related workshop in 2007 and MoP2 in 2008, and continued to support the successful development of IOSEA from our base in Bangkok. MOPs were also held for the MoUs on Aquatic Warbler, Siberian Crane, Great Bustard and Saiga Antelope and a side event for the West African Elephant MoU. The Action Plan for the Central Asian Flyway was finalised and launched. A review of CMS flyways was undertaken, and a factual report published in 2008.

11. The development of a binding Agreement for Gorillas, and its negotiation by range states in a 3 day meeting hosted by France in October 2007, was perhaps the single *most important achievement* by CMS during the triennium. The Agreement was speedily signed by 5 (50%) of the range states, allowing it to come into force on 1 June 2008. MOP1 of the agreement is being held back-to-back with COP9 in Rome.

12. On Appendix I projects, funding of €1.9 million was obtained for a vital extension of the Convention's Sahelo-Saharan Antelope programme (SSAP), a record for a single grant to CMS following the initial project from the Government of France (FFEM) which was rolled out throughout the triennium. Several other smaller projects were supported including the action plans for 3 threatened Asian water birds, and a programme to conserve the dugong in Indonesia (in partnership with UNEP). Progress on organising a MoP for the West African Elephants agreement, the Asiatic Dryland Mammals initiative, Pacific Turtles, Sturgeons, African Bats, Southeast Asia Small Cetaceans and the Bukhara Deer were *constrained by lack of resources*. The Houbara Bustard Agreement also remains to be finalised.

Objective 3: To broaden awareness and enhance engagement in the conservation of migratory species amongst key actors

13. Several tangible indicators demonstrate that the level of achievements here was *very good*. The CMS website has now become our fundamental tool for global communication. It is

published in English with monthly summaries in French and Spanish. During the period from December 2005 to May 2008 the Secretariat posted almost 200 news announcements on our website. The total number of visits to our main website www.cms.int rose from 77,200 hits per month in 2006 to 81,000 hits per month in 2008. In addition we recorded an average of 100.000 visits per month, respectively, to the separate websites we established for avian influenza (www.aiweb.info) and Year of the Dolphin (www.yod2007.org).

14. Four new partnership or co-operation agreements have been signed with intergovernmental organisations, non-governmental organisations and the private sector since the last CoP, bringing CMS` total number of formal partnerships to 21. The Secretariat conducted a questionnaire based review of existing partnership arrangements in 2008 (see UNEP/CMS/Inf 9.17). During the triennium, the Secretariat issued a range of new publications including the translation of the CMS brochure into Chinese and Arabic, an advisory leaflet on avian influenza and wild birds in all the UN languages (and German); special reports on Wildlife Watching and Migratory Species, Climate Change and Migratory Species; Dolphin project booklets in 9 languages aimed at young people; several posters; illustrated pocket calendars for 2006, 2007 and 2008, and an entirely new brochure in English on CMS in May 2008. With financial support from UNEP, the Secretariat wrote, published and distributed the first ever CMS Family Guide, giving comprehensive guidance on the Convention to Parties and others in November 2007. A new 21 panel mobile exhibition for CMS and its Agreements with the potential for integrated video was launched during the 2008 CBD CoP in Bonn.

15. A Seminar in Washington was co-sponsored with the Smithsonian Institution in May 2007. Special events were held to publicise CMS in Bonn in January 2007 (marking the 100th accession to the Convention by Yemen) and in May 2008 when about 180 guests attended a CMS presentation and dinner during the CBD COP9. A lunch event on the Sahelo-Saharan antelopes was organised in Paris in September 2006 as part of the IUCN Conference on Biodiversity in European Development Cooperation. The Secretariat organised a series of Year of the Dolphin events during 2006-8 in the Caribbean, North America, Europe, East Africa, and the South Pacific, and co-organised with AEWA the first World Migratory Bird Day in Kenya in 2006.

16. 4 volunteer honorary Ambassadors were appointed to represent CMS – Kuki Gallman (Kenya), Peter Schei (Norway), Stanley Johnson (UK) and former CMS Executive Secretary Ulf Mueller-Helmbrecht (Germany). CMS also provided support to the Friends of CMS charity after its formal establishment in Germany on 27 October 2005 and conducted a feasibility study into setting up a similar body in the UK (due later in 2008).

Objective 4: To reinforce CMS's overarching and unifying role in the conservation and management of migratory species

17. Again it is suggested that the achievements here can be regarded as *very good*. The two most important indicators for this objective are CMS membership and resources. The last CoP in November 2005 set a challenging target of 30 new Parties for the six-year period 2006-11 (an increase of 5 annually) and suggested that CMS should aim to recruit 20 new Parties by CoP9 at the end of 2008. By the end of July 2008 CMS had recruited 15 new Parties in a period of 2½ years, with the likelihood that this would rise to 17 or more by the time of CoP9. Obtaining the Convention's first adherents from the Caribbean was particularly welcome, as was the accession of Estonia which now means that the European Union has 100% membership in CMS.

18. During the same period, 58 binding signatures from 48 different countries were obtained for CMS regional species agreements. Of the latter, 17 were non-Party states which had not

previously signed a species agreement.

19. However several important and large target countries remain outside the Convention, even if the majority of these have at least signed one or more of the CMS species agreements. CMS would benefit from the sources and coverage provided by these states, but at the same time the Secretariat has insufficient manpower resources to engage with them fully.

20. The major increase in resources raised from bodies across the public, private and voluntary sectors has already been outlined (see paras 3-4 above). A strong alliance was formed with the travel company TUI, who provided extensive sponsorship and support for Year of the Dolphin⁵, funded a publication on ecotourism, and are discussing further co-operation with CMS in 2009 on Year of the Gorilla. The CMS support body for Germany, Austria and Switzerland (*Freunde der Bonner Konvention*) was formally established in October 2005 and has generated more than € 120,000 for migratory species work. A feasibility study into setting up a similar body in the UK, although with a greater emphasis on outreach and awareness-raising, is due to report later in 2008. National Geographic Deutschland and Lufthansa renewed their sponsorship for the second triennial CMS Thesis Award due to be presented at CoP9, for which there were 32 entrants.

21. Co-operation with other MEAs was focussed on CITES, with whom an updated Workplan was negotiated in 2008 (see Inf 9.19). Joint CMS/CITES meetings with Saiga antelope range and trading states were organised in 2006. A new Partnership Agreement between the CMS Group and the Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats is currently being negotiated and will be signed during COP9. The Secretariat continued to participate in the Biodiversity Liaison Group and chaired the 6th meeting in Bonn in May 2008, which agreed on co-operation between the six global MEA members during the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010.

22. An assessment of CMS and the world's major flyways was completed following extensive consultations with members of the Scientific Council, the Standing Committee and other experts. It is due to be published at the IUCN Congress in Spain in October 2008, and to form the basis for a policy debate on flyways at CoP9 (Conf.9.27).

23. Regional capacities were assisted by several events organised by the Secretariat during the period, notably a Pacific Workshop in Samoa, a joint CMS/Living Lakes Conference (Global Nature Fund) workshop in China (Lake Poyang), and a joint CMS/Ramsar workshop in Panama.

24. Little progress has been possible on encouraging the establishment of national liaison networks. Parties have not commissioned a formal review of CMS' own institutions as originally suggested in the Strategic Plan. The number of specific conservation projects in the regions financed by the Small Grants Programme remains modest (6 new projects in 2006-8) as this is now dependent almost entirely on additional voluntary contributions from Parties.

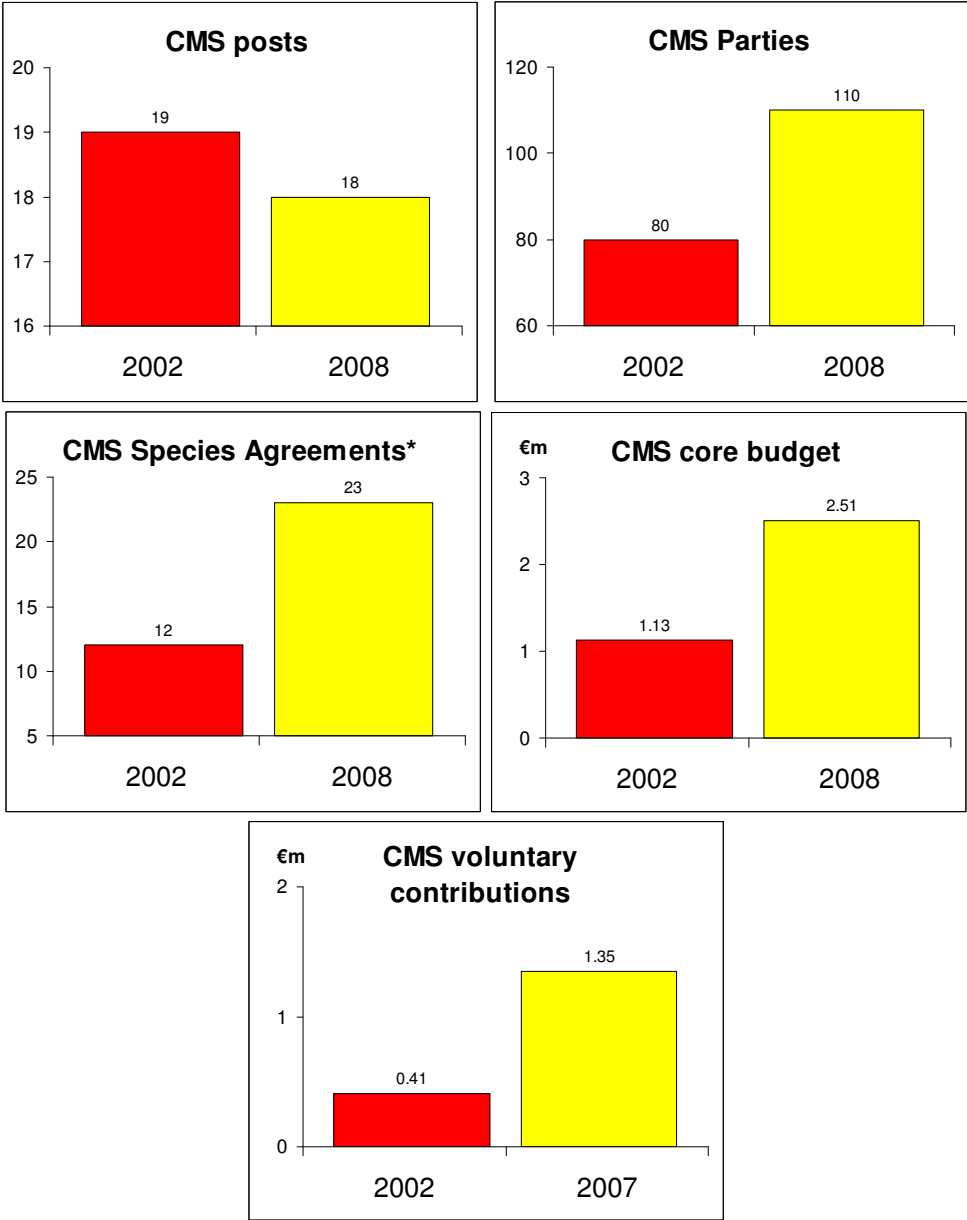
What are the Implications for the Future?

25. The Convention benefited in 2006-8 from a stable core budget funded in Euros, record project grants, increased leverage through our partners, and dedicated staff, including young officers recruited through a new intern programme or as consultants, whose contribution has been vital. This has allowed a substantial number of the targets and milestones set in the six-year Strategic Plan to be achieved or closely approached at the half-way mark.

⁵ Year of the Dolphin and future species campaigns are covered in detail in Conf 9.21.

26. CMS permanent manpower levels were last increased by Parties at CoP7 in 2002. Since then the number of Parties, the annual core budget, voluntary project funds, and the number of species agreements and major programmes have grown substantially as illustrated in the table and figures below.

Year	2002	2008	% change
CMS posts	19	18	- 5
CMS Parties	80	110	+ 38
Species agreements	12	23	+ 92
CMS core budget (in million €)	1.13	2.51	+ 122
Party voluntary contributions (in million €)	0.41	1.35 ⁶	+ 226



27. There is little doubt that the Secretariat’s permanent scientific and technical capacity is seriously under-resourced both in absolute terms, and by comparison with other Conventions (see

⁶ Note that this figure for voluntary contributions is for 2007 since the figures for 2008 can only be assessed by the end of the year.

table below). Proposals to address this in the triennium 2009-11 are presented in Conf.9.33.

Manpower resources in comparable MEAs:

	CBD	CITES	CMS	Ramsar	WHC
Number of Parties	190	172	110 ⁷	156	184
Number of Staff	83	32	18 ⁸	28	90

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⁷ A further 30 countries are signatories to CMS Agreements.

⁸ This includes the AFMU team consisting of five staff members, who provide common services to CMS and 3 co-located Agreements. The number of dedicated CMS posts should thus be considered to be 16.