



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

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FIRST MEETING OF THE SIGNATORY STATES
TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
CONCERNING CONSERVATION MEASURES FOR
THE AQUATIC WARBLER (*Acrocephalus paludicola*)
Criewen, Germany, 25-27 June 2006
Agenda Item 6.0

REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

1. It is a general principle that the CMS Secretariat acts as the secretariat for Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) concluded under CMS auspices. The CMS Secretariat acts as Secretariat for the Aquatic Warbler MoU pursuant to MoU paragraph 14. It also acts as the MoU Depository (MoU Paragraph 13).
2. This note provides a brief overview of the Secretariat's responsibilities as Depository and provides a summary of the status of signatures to the MoU and the Secretariat's recruitment efforts since the MoU's entry into effect. Section 2 briefly summarises efforts to generate a provisional list of designated contact points.

Status of Signatures and Recruitment Efforts to Date

3. The CMS Secretariat undertakes a number of activities as the MoU's depository. The primary activity is to keep track of the status of the MoU. It keeps the original version of the MoU on file, it notifies the signatories of new signatures and it transmits certified copies of the MoU to the various Signatory States and organisations that have signed the MoU.
4. Document CMS/AW-1/Inf.1 notes that as of 12 May 2006 there were 12 Signatories to the MoU. The last signature was that of Belgium on 24 November 2006. In addition, two organisations – BirdLife International and the CMS Secretariat - have signed the MoU as collaborators.
5. The CMS Secretariat is active in recruitment efforts to increase membership in the MoU. It regularly requests the three remaining Range States to determine their ability to sign the MoU. The last request was made in 11 July 2005. Of the original 15 Ranges States eligible to sign the MoU only three have not yet signed: FRANCE, Russian Federation and THE NETHERLANDS. Upper case letters indicate a State is a CMS Party. Individual contacts have been made with each country to ascertain their ability to sign the MoU.

Action requested:

- The Signatories are invited to consider and take note of the Secretariat's brief report concerning the status of signatures and recruitment efforts.

- Representatives of non-Signatory Range States eligible to sign the MoU are invited to inform the meeting of their Government's intentions vis-à-vis signature of the MoU.
- The meeting is invited to consider ways and means to increase membership in the MoU.

List of Designated National Contact Points

6. MoU paragraph 5 invites Signatories to officially designate an authority or an authorised scientist as a national contact point for all matters relating to the MoU's implementation and to communicate their name and address to the Secretariat. By letter dated 18 October 2004 the Secretariat contacted Signatories, transmitted to them the Designated National Contact Point Form (CMS/AW-1/Inf/2/Add.1), with the request to return it as soon as possible.

7. As of 31 May 2006, when this document was finalised, 11 of the Signatories had provided the Secretariat with the name of their national contact point. The status of the list will be updated by the Secretariat and a provisional list will be presented to the meeting as document CMS/AW-1/Inf/2 if the situation changes. The document will be distributed at, or shortly before, the meeting.

8. The Secretariat appeals to the Signatories that if they have not yet done so to please designate a national contact point and provide the information to the Secretariat as soon as possible. This should be done in writing from the Minister of the ministry competent for the Aquatic Warbler's conservation and management.

Action requested:

The Signatories are requested to:

- Take note of the provisional list of designated national contact points.
- Provide updated contact information at the meeting, in writing, if it has not been already forwarded to the Secretariat.
- Invite Signatories that have not yet designated a national contact point to provide the information to the Secretariat as soon as possible.