



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CMS/Conf. 8.24/Rev 1
7 November 2005

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

EIGHTH MEETING OF THE
CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
Nairobi, 20-25 November 2005
Agenda item 13

SAHELO-SAHARAN ANTELOPES (SSA): *Progress made in implementing the SSA Concerted Action and the SSA-CMS/FFEM Project* (Prepared by the Secretariat)

Origins of the CMS Concerted Action

1. Due to increasing pressure on the biodiversity of the African region of Sahara and Sahel, six wild herbivore Species are now either probably extinct (*Oryx Dammah*) or seriously threatened (*Addax nasomaculatus*, *Gazella dama*, *Gazella leptoceros*, *Gazella cuvieri* and *Gazella dorcas*) by human activities such as uncontrolled poaching and overgrazing factors, all made worse by successive droughts during the 1970s and 1980s.

2. The Range States affected by extinction or population losses are **Senegal, Mauritania, Morocco, Algeria¹, Tunisia, Mali, Niger, Chad**, Sudan, **Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Egypt, Libya** and Ethiopia.

Implementation of the SSA Concerted Action

3. The fourth Conference of Parties (Nairobi, 1994) adopted a resolution that recommended the development and the implementation of an Action Plan for the conservation of the six antelope and gazelle species. Three important milestones marked the implementation of the “Concerted Action” by CMS during the last decade:

- An Action Plan and Declaration were adopted in 1998 in Djerba, Tunisia. The UNEP/CMS Secretariat was also requested to look into the need of developing an MoU among the 14 Range States.
- The Action Plan was updated, during a second workshop held in Agadir, Morocco in May 2003, with delegations of 11 Range States and attended by 80 experts from different conservation bodies. The Range States requested the CMS Secretariat to begin work on drafting the MoU.
- The UNEP/CMS Secretariat and the « Agence Française de Développement (AFD) » signed a bilateral “Convention” approving the CMS/FFEM Project in the margins of the Agadir workshop in 2003.

¹ CMS Parties in bold face

General progress made since the seventh Conference of the Parties

4. The main progress made since the seventh Conference of the Parties are summarised below:
- (i) Establishment of a database on Sahelo-Saharan antelopes, conceived as a means of conservation and destined to compile existing information and documentation on the six concerned species; this programme component is well advanced, and needs one further year of work;
 - (ii) Development of the Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes Concerted Action website comprising an invaluable source of information about the project as a whole, which could be consulted via the CMS website;
 - (iii) Start-up activities in Senegal. Preliminary activities are underway in the Ferlo National Park, including the translocation of animals from the Gueumbeul Reserve (*Oryx* and *Gazella dama*);
 - (iv) Elaboration of new complementary proposals especially in Chad, which is important for *in situ* conservation of SSA. The CMS activities are encouraging other conservation institutions to focus their interest on urgent conservation needs for Sahelo - Saharan mega fauna, particularly in Chad and Niger.
 - (v) Developing links with other initiatives, which could help to promote SSA conservation in the wider conservation and socio-economic context of the sub-region, such as the UNESCO desert events in 2006; and
 - (vi) Publicising acute threats to the species from hunting, in cooperation with CIC (the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation.) and other stakeholders.

Initiation of the CMS/FFEM Project: Financial Plan and Institutional Organs

5. As mentioned by the “Convention”, the CMS and the “Fonds Français pour l’Environnement Mondial” (FFEM) established a partnership through an ambitious project that goes beyond simple species protection in order to help conserve biodiversity in dry areas, combat desertification and promote the rational use of natural resources in the Sahelo-Saharan region.

6. The CMS/FFEM project focuses on Tunisia, Mali and Niger as pilot projects, with transversal activities (including inventories, training and capacity building) in Morocco, Mauritania, Niger, Chad and Senegal, making 7 countries in all covered by the project.

7. The final costs of the project are estimated at € 15 million, and will engage various other stakeholders as co-financiers:

- France-FFEM, € 1,385,000 (“Convention” signed in Agadir)
- CMS, \$ 200,000, as a contribution agreed by the Parties (plus funds from UNEP/Nairobi to launch the project and support regional meetings)
- Belgium, \$ 100,000 as a voluntary contribution in the project
- The Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique (IRSNB), with in-kind contributions for developing the Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes programme since 1996
- Concerned Countries, € 8,500,000 (especially in nature and staff contributions, synergistic projects, e.g. World Bank project in Tunisia, etc.)
- Other actors likely to be interested: GEF, UNESCO, etc

8. The institutional framework agreed with FFEM employs three main techniques to secure efficient implementation. The principles were discussed and agreed in the margins of the Agadir workshop:

- The nomination of a Regional Coordinator and agreement of Terms of Reference (TOR). The Coordinator was presented to the workshop participants.

- The nomination of the Technical Committee (TC) of the project, comprising 10 international experts, and agreement of its TOR.
- Institutional functioning and procedures (essentially through nominations of National Coordinators, definition of annual programmes to present to the TC and FFEM for approval).

9. According to the agreed institutional framework of the project, the UNEP/CMS secretariat works closely with the “Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique” (IRSNB) as a “CMS Scientific Council Focal point for Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes”. The IRSNB is continuing to play a major role in coordination and scientific aspects. Members of its staff are leading the Working Group of the CMS Scientific Council on SSA. As a result, the Regional Coordinator’s activities are coordinated and supervised by both the UNEP/CMS Secretariat and the IRSNB, through Letters of Agreement. Finally, implementation of activities by the Regional Coordinator is subject to (i) submission of proposals for regional activities; (ii) technical clearance of proposals from the TC; (iii) FFEM non-objection and (iv) administrative and financial clearance preceding execution according to UN Rules by the UNEP/CMS Secretariat.

Progress of field activities of the SSA CMS/FFEM Project

10. Activities on the ground started in spring 2004. In September 2004 the new team in charge of the project at the UNEP/CMS Secretariat was able to help implementation, especially in regard to the Tunisian component of the project, and the rules of procedures for financial issues. A meeting was held in Bonn in September 2004 to discuss the project as a whole and also to point out the strengths and weaknesses of the project. The main obstacle identified was finalizing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between CMS and Tunisia concerning the Tunisian component of pilot activities. After further negotiations the MoU was signed on 14 December 2004; a letter on pending conditions towards FFEM was signed on 8 February 2005.

11. While the clarification of procedures with the National Coordinator of Tunisia took place, important missions were undertaken on the CMS Secretariat’s initiative, in order to prepare the 2005 Programme.

12. Moreover, both the Regional Coordinator and IRSNB are committed to seeking potential donors and voluntary contributions to add modular activities to the initial project. Prospecting additional possibilities is ongoing, e.g. for training, with some Embassies through the region. The way to address such voluntary contributions for their implementation needs more attention; especially potential donors seek exemption from UNEP/CMS Trust Fund charges of 13% for the entire amount they may pledge.

13. As the implementing organization, CMS is responsible for the fund management, coordination and administration of the project. The CMS Secretariat recruited a Finance Assistant, in October 2004, according to the terms of the Convention CMS/FFEM.

14. As at the end of 2004, an expenditure of € 89,000 was incurred from the CMS Trust Fund and € 35,000 has been contributed by FFEM. In this context, UNEP contributed US\$ 25,000 for the reintroduction of Addax in Tunisia (Addouz meeting) and for the development of a complementary proposal for Central Saharan Antelopes (Chad and joining countries).

15. The 2005 and 2006 programmes in Tunisia, through the implementation of the MoU activities, is ongoing. In Niger, the signature of a MoU and the definition of key activities for the 2005-2006 Programme are achieved and possibilities to extend the project to the region (Chad) are likely to happen. The situation is as follows:

- *Tunisia*

16. During the year 2003 and 2004, Tunisia identified several projected activities: preparing biological inventories, identifying favourable habitats; reinforcing the Protected Areas network;

translocation activities for Addax and Oryx; engagement of the local communities; initialisation of eco-tourism within the Protected Areas Network; and Scientific follow up. **An important programme of Addax and Oryx translocation is planned for October 2006.** Such a programme will help to achieve the Tunisian Strategy and is also a major opportunity to train national representatives of other Range States. The sub-project is amounting 465,500 US\$ (FFEM) for 2004-2007, in addition to the Tunisian contribution (8,136,330 US\$) and other sources (2,690,675 US\$).

17. To achieve the Tunisian Strategy, the approved programme of Addax and Oryx translocation for 2006 is under preparation by Tunisia. In order to facilitate the implementation and reinforce protected areas managers capacity, four activities are in process of accomplishment:

- (i) Recruitment of an assistant to the national coordinator;
- (ii) Acquisition of 2 vehicles for national parks and surveys activities;
- (iii) Establishment of a model of protected areas management plan and
- (iv) Technical preparation (including the preparation for preliminary animals reception, training logistics for representatives of other ranges states) for translocation expected for November 2006.
- (v) The remaining programme during next two years including, scientific survey, ecotourism and local populations participation is ongoing. The established calendar set in coordination between the Secretariat and Tunisian Authorities leads to getting final outcomes during the two next years for collaborative activities on local communities and ecotourism development in the region. Planning workshops will be held, for this purpose, with local communities around Senghar National Park to implementing local sustainable development projects, in partnership with elective regional institutions, via a Special National Programme.

- *Niger*

18. Following changes in the national coordination of the project in Niger, the programme previously planned after the visit of the Regional Coordinator (November 2003) has been delayed. CMS and the IRSNB worked together to meet with the SSA project partners in the area to improve information exchange, implement the administrative and financial rules and regulations of the project and agree a common work programme for 2005-2006. This programme was adopted during a meeting in Niamey with the “Direction Nationale de la Faune, Pêche et pisciculture” in October 2005. The programme comprises two main components:

- (i) **The establishment of a protected area surrounding the Termit massif.** The designation and the appropriate management of this area is a key element for the SSA-CMS/FFEM project. The Termit-Tin Toumma zone is sheltering the last viable population of Addax in the world (200 individuals?). Poaching and derangement pressures directly threaten the later and new pressures are arising with petrol prospecting in the region.
- (ii) **The establishment of a breeding center of *Gazella dama* at Gadabédji.** It is expected that that component should be implemented in collaboration with the Institutions COSPE (Italian NGO for development) and IGF (International Foundation for mega fauna recovery).

19. The Memorandum of Understanding between CMS and Niger, amounting US\$ 356,450, was adopted and signed in August 2005. This cooperative instrument was amended in October 2005, in order to meet some requirements of the FFEM, in accordance with UN Rules and procedures.

20. At the end of September, the 2005-2006 program was discussed and adopted, in cooperation with the Nigerian Authorities, who agreed with the Regional Coordination of the ASS-CMS/FFEM Project on all its components, as follows:

- (1) Guidelines on the functioning and the administrative framework, including the definition of work procedures between the National Coordination Unit (NCU) and the Regional Coordination (RC) and the financial contribution of Niger (FCFA 10,000);
- (2) NCU's capacities enhancement by the allocation of €13,000 for the Unit, in addition to the acquisition of one vehicle (€ 20,000 – 30,000) with taxes exemption;
- (3) "National Workshop on Termit", in January 2006 to be organized by the NCU at Zinder, € 6,000;
- (4) Outreach and public awareness, € 15,000, via a national tender;
- (5) Support to the NCU via a "Voluntary of Progress", to enforcing the NCU, local communities development small projects and public education, €70,000;
- (6) Elaboration of a National SSA Strategy, € 20,000 – 25,000;
- (7) "International Workshop on Termit", to be held following field activities implementation and the National SSA Strategy elaboration;
- (8) Partnership with the "Sahara Conservation Fund" (SCF), to contribute to the implementation of the "Termit Protected Area", € 100,000 –150,000 (FFEM) and €50,000 – 75,000 (SCF);
- (9) Provisional versions of the concept of project "Termit" and "Gadabédji", are drafted by the Regional Coordinator, from existing information from previous missions and discussion with partners.

21. For both of Tunisia and Niger, the Secretariat is following up with the FFEM seeking its formal approval to continue implementing activities and make a second appeal for funds following the first one of \$ 200,000.

- *Chad*

22. A part of UNEP contribution (\$ 10,000) was affected to developing a complementary proposal for Central Saharan Antelopes (Chad / Niger), in order to support CMS and FFEM efforts. The development of a Chad, Niger and Libya regional project is ongoing, in collaboration between CMS and IRSNB. The production of this of a project concept is expected by December 2005.

23. A partnership team of 4 main bodies, through their first elaborated programme amounting to 112,000 €, is undertaking the preparatory aerial survey in the North of Chad (430000 Km²). The Partners are involved in two phases from September 2005 to February 2006: ASS-CMS/FFEM (60,000 €); WCS (Wildlife Conservation Society) / US Fish and Wildlife Service (102,000 €) and the European Community Cybertracker Project (50,000€). The programme, approved by the technical Committee of the ASS-CMS/FFEM Project, is targeting four species: *Gazella dorcas*, *G. leptoceros*, *G. dama* and *Addax nasomaculatus* (probably still surviving in the adjoining territory of the "Termit massif" in Niger).

WSSD Partnership for Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes

24. Several features of the SSAP – notably the range of actual and potential stakeholders, the location in a sub-region comprising mainly developing countries, the links between ecosystems and the wider poverty/development agenda, and the need for sustained action over perhaps 10-20 years – are pointers for the formation of a "Type II" Partnership under the criteria set by the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in 2002. Existing WSSD Partnerships such as the Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP) and the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) could act, in part, as models for partnership focussing on the Sahelo-Saharan antelopes in the context of species, ecosystems and dependent human populations. A Partnership would provide a firm but flexible structure to join-up initiatives at international, regional, national and local levels, and by a range of actors (CMS, other international organisations (e.g. UNCCD and IUCN), donors (e.g. GEF), range state governments, international and local NGOs (e.g. SOS Faune/Niger) and user organisations (e.g. CIC).

25. In its 28th meeting, the Standing committee had endorsed the proposition of taking soundings on the creation of a WSSD Partnership for Sahelo Saharan antelopes by the CMS Secretariat and also on the elaboration of a document on illegal killing and poaching issues.

26. In the context, CMS has taken the initiative in establishing an “Open Partnership” to all voluntary partners for joining that initiative with “CMS”, the “Sahara Conservation Fund” and “African Parks”, as founding Partners. There will be a launch for the initiative, in November 2005 during the Conference of the Parties, at Nairobi.

Illegal hunting issues

27. The CMS Secretariat have had organized several meetings to publicise the threat Sahelo-Saharan antelopes posed by current pattern of unsustainable hunting/poaching carried out by well organized hunting groups mainly from outside Africa and the sub-region. The issue was specially highlighted at a CMS presentation to the I8UCN World Conservation Conference in November 2004, and subsequently in a special address by the Executive Secretary to the General assembly of the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) at Abu Dhabi in March 2005 (web ref for speech). These activities echo the news expressed by range states in the Djerba (1998) and Agadir (2003) Declarations², in which sought an end to poaching and illegal hunting perpetrated by overseas hunters in the region.

Action requested

28. The Conference of the Parties is requested to:

- a. Reemphasize the importance of the SSA Concerted Action and the commitment of CMS towards Sahelo-Saharan biodiversity, taking special account of the acute socio-economic needs of many of the range states as well as the critical conservation status of the antelopes species;
- b. Confirm the need for all CMS Parties, and the Secretariat to raise the profile of these “flagship” species, which have been partially overlooked through the focus on “biodiversity hotspots”;
- c. Recognize the necessity to identifying further complementary funds to carry through the project, and in particular to request the Secretariat to prepare bids to key donors and partners for a subsequent phase of the project to follow from the present one funded by FFEM;
- d. Take note of the report and encourage the further extension of the Concerted Action and the SSA-CMS/FFEM project to the entire range in subsequent phase of the project;
- e. Invite the Secretariat to continue working closely with SSA WG, range States and other interested countries and organizations with a view to developing and implementing the WSSD Partnership launched at the 8th Conference of the Parties in November 2005; and
- f. Consider preparing a resolution/recommendation, as appropriate, on the specific issue of illegal hunting and poaching in the light of the advice of the Scientific Council.

² Annex – Agadir Declaration

*AGADIR DECLARATION***Second Seminar on the Conservation and Restoration
of Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes and their Habitats**

(Agadir, Kingdom of Morocco, 1-5 May 2003)

In order to follow up the work undertaken during the first seminar held at Djerba, Tunisia, in 1998, the representatives of the Range States of the six species of Sahelo-Saharan antelopes, that is, *Oryx dammah*, *Addax nasomaculatus*, *Gazella dama*, *Gazella leptoceros*, *Gazella cuvieri*, and *Gazella dorcas*, representatives of scientific institutions and non-governmental organizations, as well as experts in the field, met at Agadir, Kingdom of Morocco, from 1 to 5 May 2003, in order to:

- take stock, five years on, of the status of conservation of these species and their habitats in the various range countries;
- review the activities undertaken and the projects developed for the implementation of the CMS Action Plan;
- update the “Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes” Action Plan of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS/Bonn Convention) adopted at the end of the Djerba seminar;
- set action priorities for the conservation and/or the reintroduction of these species;
- strengthen the scope and effectiveness of the action agreed upon, under the guidance of the CMS Scientific Council;
- strengthen international cooperation in the medium and long term, including making progress towards the development of an agreement under the auspices of CMS.

This second seminar was convened by the CMS Secretariat (UNEP/CMS Secretariat) on behalf of the Conference of the Parties, at the initiative of the Scientific Council of the Convention.

The Range States represented were: Algeria, BURKINA FASO³, CHAD, EthiopiaTHIOPIA, MALI, MAURITANIA, MOROCCO, NIGER, SENEGAL, Sudan and TUNISIA.

BELGIUM and FRANCE were also represented, each by one or several representatives and by one or several experts.

The seminar was formally opened by the Secretary General of the Department of Water, Forests and Combat against Desertification, Mr. Mohamed Anechoum and the Executive Secretary of UNEP/CMS, Mr. Arnulf Müller-Helmbrecht. It was chaired by the Director General of the Department of ForestsConservation of Forest Resources, Department of Water, Forests and Combat against Desertification of the Kingdom of Morocco of the Kingdom of Morocco, Mr. Mohamed Ankouz. The UNEP/CMS Secretariat, represented by its Executive Secretary, and the Royal Institute of Natural Sciences of Belgium (IRSNB), represented by Dr. Roseline C. Beudels-Jamar de Bolsée, who also represented the Chair of the CMS Scientific Council, and Dr. Koen Desmet, acted as the secretariat for the seminar.

³ States in capital letters are Parties to CMS

The CMS Focal Point in Morocco, Mr. Mohamed Ankouz, and the scientific adviser, Mr. Abdellah El Mastour, the Director of the Souss Massa National Park, Mr. Mohammed Rib, other officials from the Department of Water and Forests and Combat against Desertification, together with the entire team from the Souss Massa National Park, assisted in the organization of the seminar.

For obvious reasons of convergence of interests and motivation, the Sahelo-Saharan Interest Group (GISSIG), established in 1999, held its fourth meeting following the CMS seminar. Most of the GISSIG members actively participated in the work of the seminar and contributed with their various categories of expertise.

The representatives of the various Range States and invited international experts reported on the conservation status of the six species and their habitats, trends, the population dynamics, threats, and measures taken for the species' conservation and restoration, dealing particularly dealing particularly with at the changes that had occurred in the previous five years. These reports showed that, aside from some specific situations, the status of the populations *in situ* as a whole had further worsened since the Djerba seminar, and the Sahelo-Saharan antelopes in the wild were in an increasingly critical situation and there was an urgent need to implement the Action Plan.

The main threats identified were still as follows: poaching, constant hunting, drought and desertification, the loss of favorable habitats, a lack of resources and commitment, and some indifference on the part on the part of the international community in regard to a region that does not hold a high concentration of the world's biodiversity.

In particular, the representatives of most of the Range States pointed to excessive hunting as the main current threat; this was organized by groups from the Gulf States, in defiance of national laws and international agreements. Such hunting campaigns thwarted all efforts at restoration of the Sahelo-Saharan fauna, a fact that had already been identified at the Djerba meeting. The seminar, now admitting that this situation, if not rapidly controlled, will render conservation efforts by the international community useless, has prepared, guided by a working group comprising representatives of 10 Range States, a recommendation (paragraph 6 below) to draw the immediate attention of all concerned parties to this serious problem.

The seminar organized its work through two working groups, each with geographical representation; the first group comprised the northern countries: Algeria*, MAURITANIA*, MOROCCO and, TUNISIA; the second comprised countries from the central and southern Sahara, Algeria*, BURKINA FASO, CHAD, Ethiopia, MALI, MAURITANIA*, NIGER, and SENEGAL and Sudan. The working groups' main work was the identification of priority actions to be implemented in the following four years. A third working group, coordinated by Mr. John Newby, devoted its work to updating the current information on the conservation status of Sahelo-Saharan ungulates, in consultation with each delegation and the invited experts.

The seminar also set up a small working group whose mandate was to develop, with the help of the CMS Secretariat, a draft Memorandum of Understanding between the Range States, including the identification of means to develop international cooperation in order to restore, conserve and manage these species.

* Algeria and Mauritania were represented in both groups.

The seminar:

1. * expresses its gratitude to the Kingdom of Morocco, represented by the Secretary General of the Department of Water, Forests and Combat against Desertification, Mr. Mohamed Anechoum, and the Director of the Conservation of Forest Resources of the same Department, MMr. Mohamed Ankouz, for its generous hospitality;
 - * thanks the various institutions that had contributed to the holding of the meeting, in particular:
 - the Department of Water, Forests and Combat against Desertification of the Kingdom of Morocco;
 - the Conference of the Parties of CMS;
 - the Services of the Prime Minister for Scientific, Technical and Cultural Affairs of Belgium;
 - the Environment Ministry of the Flemish Region of Belgium;
 - the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP);
 - * forwards its thanks to the Conference of the Parties of CMS, represented by the UNEP/CMS Secretariat, and to IRSNB for the organization of the meeting and for the coordination of the scientific aspects of the implementation of the restoration and conservation of the Sahelo-Saharan antelopes;
 - * also expresses its thanks to its Chair, Mr. Mohamed Ankouz, Director of the Conservation of Forest Resources, Department of Water, Forests and Combat against Desertification of the Kingdom of Morocco, for his excellent guidance of the meeting;
2. having been more fully briefed on the critical conservation status of the six species concerned, through the reports of the experts from Sahelo-Saharan countries, calls upon the Governments of those countries to increase their efforts towards the protection and restoration of these species and their habitats;
3. congratulates the Range States and governmental and non-governmental organizations for the projects undertaken to date, which had yielded promising results, and encourages them to continue their efforts, including financial assistance, and encourages them to assist other Range States to benefit from their experience;
4. thanks the Royal Institute of Natural Sciences of Belgium (IRSNB), the French Global Environment Fund and the National Office for Hunting and Wildlife (ONCFS) for their generous contributions and the assistance of their experts, in the development and funding of the first regional project for the implementation of the “Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes” Action Plan of CMS;
5. thanks the Sahelo-Saharan Interest group (SSIG), its President, Dr. Steve Montfort, and all its members, for their valuable technical contributions to the work of the seminar, and for their major contributions in support and implementation of the CMS Action Plan;
6. Notes the Djerba appeal concerning the serious harm caused by some hunters and falconers to the wildlife of many countries of the Sahelo-Saharan region, in particular to highly endangered species, among which are the antelopes and other species strictly protected and listed in Annex I of CMS and in the national laws of the concerned countries;

and, based on the report of a working group of representatives of ten countries in the range area of Sahelo-Saharan antelopes,

- takes note that the appeal of the Djerba seminar of February 1998 has had no effect and that hunters and falconers are still causing serious harm to wildlife in the Sahelo-Saharan region, including species which are on the brink of extinction and strictly protected, such as antelopes and bustards;
 - notes that these hunting practices are in flagrant contradiction of national laws and legal commitments undertaken in international treaties and compromise the efforts of the relevant authorities in the Range States and those of the international community, States, international organizations and non-governmental organizations, efforts that try to preserve the last individuals surviving in the wild and re-establish viable populations of those species;
 - appeals to the political authorities of the countries concerned, as well as to hunters and falconers:
 - to respect the legislation of the Range States of Sahelo-Saharan antelopes;
 - to support the efforts of States to re-establish, under the auspices of CMS, viable numbers of Sahelo-Saharan antelopes; and
 - to respect the commitments entered into by the States concerned, confirmed by their ratification of international conventions, to restore and/or maintain sustainable populations of these species;
 - requests CMS to review the present appeal, within the rules of the Convention, and take the appropriate steps with the authorities of all the countries concerned in order to undertake the appropriate technical and institutional measures to put an end to all practices of capture that are not in conformity with the legal provisions in this area or with the sound and sustainable use of resources;
7. adopts the Action Plan as modified by the outcome of the two working groups of the seminar, and requests the seminar secretariat to finalize it following its recommendations, and distribute it to all the seminar participants as well as to all relevant organizations at a national and international level;
8. invites:
- all governmental, national and international institutions inside as well as outside the range of species concerned to implement this revised “Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes” Action Plan and to integrate it into their activities, including their conservation and development strategies as well as in strategies for combating desertification;
 - international and supra-national governmental institutions, in particular the organs of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), of the United Nations Convention on Desertification, of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), of the World Bank, of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the European Union, to support the implementation of the revised Action Plan by including recommended actions in the priorities of their work programmes and by providing technical and financial assistance to the development of transboundary cooperation and the implementation of concerted actions;
 - the international and national institutions involved in the conservation and sustainable use of African fauna and flora to collaborate in the development and translation into action of the projects identified in the Action Plan;

9. urges the Range States of Sahelo-Saharan antelopes to develop and conclude an Agreement or Memorandum of Understanding under the auspices of CMS in order to provide a framework for the species' long-term conservation and management;
10. notes with satisfaction that the representatives of the Range States of Sahelo-Saharan antelopes have proposed to form a working group to assist the UNEP/CMS Secretariat to prepare a first draft of a Memorandum of Understanding;
11. urges the SSA Working Group of CMS to continue in its tasks of gathering information and its necessary dissemination, so as to:
 - enable experts of national and non-governmental organizations to develop appropriate projects;
 - make available to Range States a repertoire of appropriate measures for the development of management plans for sites, for institutional strengthening, and training and research, and public awareness-raising;
 - facilitate the integration of environmental concerns into various sectors, such as agriculture, forestry and the wise use of wild fauna;
 - prepare proposals for the Range States aiming at integrating the conservation of species, habitats and ecosystems into the development of local populations;
 - continue to report to the Scientific Council of CMS, as well as to the CMS Standing Committee;
 - complete and keep up to date the database and the internet site initiated by IRSNB.
12. decides to meet again in four years to:
 - take stock of the progress achieved;
 - revise the Action Plan in the light of the progress made and setbacks encountered;
 - discuss the options for improving the implementation of this Action Plan, based on the experience acquired;
13. requests CMS to organize such a meeting and to seek the necessary funds;
14. calls upon those Sahelo-Saharan countries that have not yet done so to accede to CMS and to implement the Convention.

Done at Agadir, Kingdom of Morocco, on 6 May 2003

We confirm the correct formulation of the Seminar Declaration:



Dr. Roseline C. Beudels-Jamar de Bolsée
Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique
Brussels, Belgium



Arnulf Müller-Helmbrecht
UNEP/CMS Secretariat
Bonn, Germany

Date: 7 May 2003