



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

Distr: General

CMS/PIC/MoS3/Doc.7.3
24 August 2012

Original: English

THIRD MEETING OF THE SIGNATORIES TO THE
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR THE
CONSERVATION OF CETACEANS AND THEIR
HABITATS IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION
Noumea, New Caledonia, 8 September 2012
Agenda Item 7.3

CMS SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

(prepared by the Secretariat)

1. Following a generous pledge by UNEP for US\$300,000 made at the Tenth Conference of the Parties (COP10, November 2011, Bergen, Norway), a minimum of US\$100,000 per year is being made available for the CMS Small Grants Programme (SGP) from 2012-2014. The CMS Secretariat is seeking additional funds to supplement the amounts available, as well as continue the programme beyond 2014.
2. COP10 endorsed guidelines ([UNEP/CMS/Conf.10.43](#)) for the operation of the Small Grants Programme. For complete details on the process and criteria, refer to the [CMS Website](#).
3. A call for applications was made on 15 March 2012 for grassroots conservation projects requesting grants of up to €15,000. Only project applications submitted by the deadline of 31 May 2012 that complied with the following criteria were considered:
 - Contribute to the implementation of the Convention and/or focus on migratory species
 - Project activities within countries that have ratified the Convention and which are not more than three years in arrears with their contributions
 - Duration does not exceed two years
 - Endorsed by the national CMS Focal Point(s) of country(ies) where project activities are taking place
4. Priority was given to projects that have secured co-funding, take place in Least Developed Countries or require urgent conservation action. Further priority was given to projects that concerned species listed on Appendix I and listed for Concerted Action, followed by those concerning species only listed on Appendix I and those listed only on Appendix II.

Applications

5. A total of 74 project applications were submitted from 44 countries, 12 of which were planning activities in Least Developed Countries (UN, 2012). However, none of the applications of the 2012-2013 round were submitted from the Pacific Island Region.

6. As shown in Table 1, all major taxonomic groups under CMS were covered by the applications for the 2012-2013 round.

Table 1

Taxonomic Group	Birds	Terrestrial Mammals, including bats	Marine Mammals	Marine Turtles	Fish	Multiple Species / Habitats
Total Number of Projects	42	9	8	8	4	3
Number of Countries	30	8	7	6	4	3

7. The average request for funding was €14,128. About half the projects had co-funding available with an average of €55,000. Project proposals were submitted from 52 non-governmental, 15 research and 8 governmental organizations.

Evaluation

8. Each proposal was reviewed by at least three independent experts selected from a panel, as well as the Scientific and Technical Officer at CMS. Projects were assessed on their application quality (how clearly the project is envisaged to work), budget (adequate coverage of all activities, realism and reasonable balance between salaries and other costs), project team (suitability and qualifications of the implementing agency and collaborators), feasibility (implementation of the envisaged project) and impact and application to CMS (how well the project assists the implementation of an existing CMS instrument, including Action Plans).

9. In the absence of a meeting of the Scientific Council in 2012, a panel consisting of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Scientific Council, as well as the Secretariat has reviewed applications that scored the highest on these criteria as mandated by the SGP Guidelines (UNEP/CMS/Conf.10.43). The list of successful projects will be published shortly on the CMS website.

2013 Applications

10. The next round of SGP applications will be opened in late 2013. Therefore, the Secretariat highly recommends Signatories to do all they can to become eligible before the next deadline for submissions. For those countries not yet Party to CMS, ratification of the Convention is a requirement. The CMS Secretariat will be pleased to provide further information on the benefits, as well as the necessary procedures. CMS Parties should ensure that any arrears in contributions are paid well before the next call for proposals is issued, but at the latest before the deadline for submission of proposals to the Secretariat. National Focal Points are encouraged to spread the call for applications widely and facilitate the submission of suitable proposals.

Action requested:

The Signatories are requested to:

- Take note of the Secretariat's report.
- Take steps to become eligible for the next round of Small Grants Programme applications, by
 - a) As a non-Party to CMS, working towards ratification
 - b) As a CMS Party, ensuring no arrears in contributions exist
- Disseminate the next call for applications widely and facilitate the submission of suitable proposals