



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

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MEETING TO CONCLUDE THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY BIRDS OF PREY IN AFRICA AND EURASIA UNDER THE CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 20-22 October 2008
Agenda Item 6.0

GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE CMS SECRETARIAT ON THE FINAL MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY BIRDS OF PREY IN AFRICA AND EURASIA (MOU) AND IT'S RELATED ACTION PLAN (AP)

1. The meeting to identify and elaborate an option for international cooperation on African-Eurasian migratory birds of prey under the Convention on Migratory Species that was held in Loch Lomond, Scotland, in October 2007 led to the conclusion of a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and Action Plan (AP).
2. The draft MoU and AP were subsequently sent to the Range States for comments from 12 February 2008 onwards until the extended deadline of 18 July 2008.
3. Comments were received from 15 range states, one observer, a non-governmental organisation, as well as the European Union. Several comments stressed the importance of clarifying the outstanding financial and organisational (structure and functioning of the prospective coordination unit) issues. The financial aspects and implications of the MoU and AP are addressed by a financial working group.
4. As regards the MoU, reference was made to the legal nature of the text. In this context, some countries mentioned that it would be important to clarify that the instrument in question was of a legally non-binding nature. In addition, a number of drafting suggestions were made for clarification and consistency purposes.
5. A great deal of interest was accorded to the activities of the AP. A number of comments relate to the time-scale according to which the different activities set out in Table 2 of the AP are expected to be implemented. Furthermore, some amendments were made with reference to the table of important bird areas.
6. The European Union reviewed proposals for amendments made by a number of its Member States through Community coordination. At the request of the European Union, the CMS Secretariat sent the table of comments to the EU in order to allow it to be aware of comments provided by their country members.

7. The resulting consensual text has been considered by the Secretariat. The latter added some comments from other countries that it considered crucial.

8. In brief, while some comments were of a general nature, that is, not referring to a specific item of the draft MoU and AP, a number of specific drafting suggestions were made in relation to the aforementioned instruments.

Action requested:

The Meeting is requested to:

- a. Consider the conclusion of the final Memorandum of Understanding as in the meeting document UNEP/CMS/AEBOP/2/6, and the Action Plan as in UNEP/CMS/AEBOP/2/7 without in-depth debate and discussion.
- b. Take note of all the comments incorporated in the text.
- c. Ensure that the participating eligible delegations could sign the final Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia, as scheduled for during the Meeting.