



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

Distribution: General

UNEP/CMS/ScC17/Doc.10
4 October 2011

Original: English

17TH MEETING OF THE
SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL
Bergen, 17-18 November 2011
Agenda Item 15.1

REPORT ON THE SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

1. This Report covers the period from the 16th Meeting of the Scientific Council (Bonn, 28-30 June 2010) to the 17th Meeting (Bergen, 17-18 November 2011).
2. The 16th Meeting of the Scientific Council (ScC16) endorsed the following three projects for funding under the Small Grants Programme:
 - (a) Organization of a workshop on climate change and migratory species). Mandated by Res.9.7 on climate change impacts on migratory and proposed by the Working Group on Climate Change;
 - (b) Organization of a workshop and development of an action plan for small cetaceans of the Western Indian Ocean. Proposed by the Working Group on Aquatic Mammals; and
 - (c) Conservation of the Ruddy-headed Goose (*Chloephaga rubidiceps*). Proposed by the Working Group on Birds.
3. Project (a) was successfully implemented and the workshop took place at the Tour du Valat Research Station (Arles, France) from 6-8 June 2011¹. Participants reviewed the implementation of the CMS climate change mandate and prepared a first draft of Resolution 10.19 on climate change. The report of the Meeting has been posted as UNEP/CMS/ScC17/Inf.12. Funding for this project was provided by a voluntary contribution from Germany (€12,000) and from the CMS core budget (€8,000).
4. Project (b) has been proposed by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). The workshop is foreseen to involve around 20 countries and has an estimated budget of US\$169,000. After consultation with WCS in May 2011, it was decided to postpone it to 2012 for two main reasons, (i) unavailability of the necessary funds; and (ii) to avoid a clash with the CMS COP in November 2011. Postponing this workshop will allow more time for fundraising. The Council is requested to carry over the proposal for funding from the Small Grants Programme to the year 2012 with the caveat that most of the funding will have to come from external sources.

¹ The meeting documents are available on the dedicated CMS webpage of the Working Group on Climate Change under the Scientific Council: http://www.cms.int/bodies/ScC/climate_change_wg/ccwg_mainpage.htm.

5. Project (c) was presented at ScC16 as a project concept by the Scientific Councillor from Argentina, Mr. Daniel Blanco, and subsequently endorsed by the Working Group on Birds. Unfortunately the Secretariat did not receive a detailed project proposal since then and therefore this project could not be implemented.

6. In addition to the above mentioned projects, the Secretariat has supported other projects that were received after ScC16. Before deciding on support to these projects, consultations with the Chair of the Scientific Council, relevant Appointed Councillors and Working Group Chairs were held to ensure the priorities of the Council were upheld. These following projects received funding from CMS:

- (a) Emergency action for the conservation of the Spoon billed Sandpiper (*Eurynorhynchus pygmaeus*) in Myanmar. Submitted by BirdLife International. The CMS contribution was of €10,000. The report of this project is posted as UNEP/CMS/ScC17/Inf.11;
- (b) Exploratory survey of cetaceans and their status in Cameroon and search for the Atlantic humpback dolphin (*Sousa teuszii*). Submitted by *Association Camérounaise de Biologie Marine*. The CMS contribution was of US\$10,785 financed through a voluntary contribution from Finland, and there was also co-funding by the Columbus Zoo Conservation Fund. The project report is posted as UNEP/CMS/ScC17/Inf.10;
- (c) Monitoring of 2011-2012 breeding colonies and populations of Andean flamingos (*Phoenicoparrus andinus* y *P. jamesi*) in Argentina and Bolivia. Submitted by *Centro de Estudios en Biología Teórica y Aplicada* (BIOTA). The CMS contribution is of US\$17,900, of which US\$10,000 are provided by UNEP and US\$7,900 by the CMS Trust Fund. A preliminary report of this project is under preparation;
- (d) Mediterranean Conference on Marine Turtles. Submitted by *Comitato Organizzatore Convegno 4th Mediterranean Conference on Marine Turtles*. Naples (Italy), 7-10 November 2011. The CMS contribution is of €5,000. A report of this project is not yet available; and
- (e) Conservation breeding programme for the critically endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper. Submitted by the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT). CMS contribution of €10,000. The report of this project is posted as UNEP/CMS/ScC17/Inf.15.

Action requested:

The 17th Meeting of the Scientific Council is requested to:

- a. take note of this report and provide comments;
- b. consult this report in combination with document UNEP/CMS/Conf.10.43 “Revised Guidelines for the Operation of the Small Grants Programme” and to endorse the Revised Guidelines; and
- c. urge Parties and donor organizations to provide voluntary contributions to the Small Grants Programme.