



# Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

*Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme*



## **FIRST MEETING OF THE SIGNATORIES TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE CONSERVATION OF SOUTHERN SOUTH AMERICAN MIGRATORY GRASSLAND BIRD SPECIES AND THEIR HABITATS**

*14 December 2010, Asuncion, Paraguay*

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UNEP/CMS/GRB1/REPORT

### **REPORT OF THE MEETING**

#### **Agenda Item 1: Opening of the Meeting**

1. The Meeting was opened at 17.30 hrs. in Asunción, Paraguay. It was convened by the CMS Secretariat, which also acted as Secretariat of the Meeting. The organization of the meeting was supported by Asociación Guyra Paraguay, which took care and covered the costs of all the logistics, including travel costs of the delegates. The Meeting was attended by representatives of all Signatory States to the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Southern South American Migratory Grassland Bird Species and their Habitats. The list of participants is attached as annex 4. The language of the Meeting was Spanish.

2. Welcoming and introductory remarks applicable to the meeting were presented by the representatives of the host country and the CMS Secretariat at the opening of the Technical Meeting for the elaboration of an Action Plan for Migratory Grassland Birds of Southern South America which preceded the meeting.

#### **Agenda Item 2: Election of Officers**

3. The Meeting unanimously elected Ms. Nora Neris (Secretaría del Ambiente, Paraguay) as Chair of the Meeting. Mr. Marcel Calvar (Uruguay) was elected as Vice-Chair.

#### **Agenda Item 3: Adoption of the agenda and meeting schedule**

4. The Meeting was invited to consider the provisional agenda proposed by the Secretariat, as contained in document UNEP/CMS/MGB1/Doc.1 and annotated agenda in document UNEP/CMS/MGB1/Doc.2. The Meeting also considered the provisional schedule contained in document UNEP/CMS/MGB1/Doc.2. The provisional agenda and provisional schedule were adopted without modification. The approved agenda is attached to this report as annex 1.

#### **Agenda Item 4: Consideration and adoption of the Action Plan for Migratory Grassland Birds of Southern South America**

5. The Meeting was invited to consider the final draft of the Action Plan for Migratory Grassland Birds of Southern South America included in document UNEP/CMS/GRB1/Doc.4, as produced by the preceding Technical Meeting for the elaboration of an Action Plan for Migratory Grassland Birds of Southern South America.

6. The Meeting adopted the Action Plan by consensus, without modification. The Action Plan is attached to this report as Annex 2. In conformity with paragraph 2 of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Southern South American Migratory Grassland Bird Species and their Habitats the Action Plan is to be considered an annex and an integral part of the MoU with immediate effect.

7. The Meeting also approved the prioritization of actions recommended by the Technical Meeting. The list of Priority Activities is attached to this report as Annex 3.

#### **Agenda Item 5: Institutional and procedural matters, including options for the coordination of the MoU**

##### *MoU Coordination*

8. The Secretariat introduced this item referring to document UNEP/CMS/GRB1/Doc .5. The theory and practice of MoU Coordination has been developed over the years for MoUs for which the CMS Secretariat in Bonn was acting as MoU Secretariat. It consisted in the establishment of different types of arrangements between the CMS Secretariat and appropriate organizations, and aimed at supporting the CMS Secretariat in its functions of Secretariat of the MoU, notably in the organization of meetings, and in assisting the MoU signatories in implementing the MoU. While the implementation of Coordination Arrangements had not been without difficulties, notably in the identification of financial resources to support such mechanisms, where it had been possible to implement them over a sufficient period of time they had significantly enhanced MoU implementation. Signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Southern South American Migratory Grassland Bird Species and their Habitats were therefore invited to consider the interest of establishing such an arrangement for this MoU.

9. Speaking on behalf of Asociación Guyra Paraguay and of Birdlife International – Secretariat for the Americas, Ms. Cristina Morales presented an offer by these two organizations to jointly provide coordination services to the MoU. It was the clear understanding of the two organizations that the function of coordination consisted in activities of support to the Secretariat and the Signatory States related to the implementation of the MoU. Birdlife was well placed to provide this type of support for the entire area covered by the MoU, in the context of its Programa de Alianza de Pastizales, while Guyra Paraguay, as a birdlife partner, would continue to provide support for specific activities. A scheme similar to the one proposed was already operational for other MoUs established in the framework of CMS, such as the one for the Aquatic Warbler.

10. All delegations expressed appreciation for the support provided by Asociación Guyra Paraguay and of Birdlife International towards the development of the MoU. In replying to a request of further clarification concerning the coordination role, the Secretariat explained that MoU Coordinators were expected to support the CMS Secretariat in providing Secretariat functions and to assist Parties to implement the MoU upon their request. MoU Coordinators did not have any steering or directive role, which remained a prerogative of the individual signatories and of the meetings of the Signatories.

11. With this understanding, the Meeting approved the establishment of a coordination mechanism for the MoU along the lines proposed, and invited the CMS Secretariat to pursue negotiations with BLI and Asociación Guyra Paraguay with a view to finalizing a formal agreement.

#### *Appointment of Scientific Coordinators*

12. The Secretariat drew the attention of the Meeting to paragraph 3 of the MoU, providing for the appointment of a Scientific Coordinator in each Signatory State. With the MoU becoming fully operational with the adoption of the Action Plan, fulfilment of this provision of the MoU was also appropriate. The role implied both functions as contact point for the MoU in the respective country, with respect to other signatories and the Secretariat, and facilitation of the MoU implementation in the respective country.

13. The scope of the latter function was to each Signatory State to determine. It was agreed that the Secretariat will write to the Signatory States shortly after the meeting requesting the appointment of the respective Scientific Coordinator using the form included in document UNEP/CMS/GRB1/Inf.3.

#### *Report of implementation*

14. The Secretariat drew the attention of the Meeting to paragraph 5 of the MoU, providing for the submission by each Signatory to the Secretariat of a periodic report on the implementation of the MoU and the Action Plan. While the MoU does not indicate the periodicity of the reports, the practice in other MoUs was to prepare the National Report of implementation in correspondence to the meetings of the Signatories. National Reports represented a major input to a synthesis report on the status of species covered by the MoU and MoU/Action Plan Implementation at the regional level. For those MoUs for which a coordination mechanism was in place, this report was normally compiled by the MoU Coordinator. The Secretariat proposed to follow a similar approach for reporting under this MoU. A format for the MoU was to be developed and agreed by correspondence after this meeting, taking into account the Action Plan just adopted.

15. The Meeting agreed on the Secretariat's proposal. Ms. Cristina Morales (Asociación Guyra Paraguay) indicated that the software MIRADI, the use of which was the object of the training workshop scheduled on the following three days, could possibly provide a suitable platform for an electronic format for the national reports. The workshop was expected to explore this possibility.

## **Agenda Item 6: Date and venue of the next meeting of the Signatories to the MoU**

16. Introducing this agenda item, the Secretariat explained that, in pursuance of paragraph 4 of the MoU, meetings of representatives of the Signatory States were expected to be convened by the Secretariat at more or less regular intervals. Periodicity under other MoUs was generally between 2 and 4 years.

17. In the ensuing discussion, the delegations of Bolivia and Brazil expressed interest in, and availability to consider hosting further meetings of the Signatories. It was also indicated that another possibility would have been to convene meetings of the Signatories to the MoU in the margins of meetings of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to CMS.

18. In replying to a question, the Secretariat explained that representatives of the Signatories could also meet in other types of meetings, such as technical meetings and technical workshops. These meetings, normally convened to address specific technical matters, were less formal and could be convened also by individual Signatory States, without necessarily implying the involvement of the Secretariat.

19. It was agreed that the next Meeting of the Signatories should preferably be convened in 2012, subject to availability of suitable offers to host it and funding to cover its costs.

## **Agenda Item 7: Any other business**

20. There were none.

## **Agenda Item 8: Closure of the Meeting**

21. After the customary exchange of courtesies, the Chair declared the Meeting closed at 2000 hrs. on 14 December 2010.