



# CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

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FIRST MEETING OF THE SIGNATORIES TO THE  
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING CONCERNING  
CONSERVATION MEASURES FOR THE WEST AFRICAN  
POPULATIONS OF THE AFRICAN ELEPHANT (*Loxodonta africana*)  
Accra, Ghana, 30-31 March 2009

## FINANCIAL MATTERS RELATED TO COORDINATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MOU

*(Prepared by the Secretariat)*

1. This document aims at summarizing the financial implications of MoU coordination activities since the entry into force of the MoU, and foreseen financial needs in the short and term, including some options to fulfil those needs.

### **MoU Coordination**

2. The MoU assigns the CMS Secretariat the role of providing Secretariat services and invites it to use the services of any reliable organisation to support it.<sup>1</sup> The CMS Conference of the Parties Resolutions 7.7, 8.5 and 9.2 encourage the Secretariat to continue exploring partnerships with interested organizations specialised in the conservation and management of migratory species for the provision of developmental support and coordination services for selected MoUs, including the West African Elephant MoU. In addition, para 4 of the MoU assigns the IUCN/SSC AfESG the role of technical advisor to the MoU.

3. On these grounds, the CMS Secretariat concluded a Letter of Agreement (“LoA”) with the AfESG on 31 July 2006, which assigned the AfESG with functions concerning both technical support and coordination services for the implementation of the MoU and the associated Strategy.

4. The LoA provided for a series of activities and tasks, over a period of two years, which are summarized in the table 1 here below.

<sup>1</sup> MoU, para 15.

**Table 1:** Activities and tasks identified in LoA between CMS and IUCN dated 31 July 2006

Activity	MoU Paragraph
1. Promote the MoU and the Strategy for the Conservation of West African Elephants (the Strategy) within and outside the West African sub-region	1, 3
2. Provide technical assistance to help strengthen capacity in the Range States to implement the Strategy	1, 3
3. Facilitate collaboration between Range States in developing initiatives for the management of transfrontier elephants and help provide technical input to these initiatives	1, 3, 4
4. Assist Benin, Mali, Niger, Sierra Leone and Liberia to produce national elephant conservation strategies	2, 3
5. Provide technical assistance to implement existing national elephant conservation strategies and action plans as and when requested and required	2, 3
6. Facilitate the rapid exchange of scientific, technical and legal information necessary to coordinate elephant conservation measures	4
7. Assist the designation of competent authorities to serve as focal points for the implementation of the MoU and Strategy	6
8. Maintain an up-to-date list of focal points for the MoU and Strategy and liaise closely with them on matters relating to implementation. Assist with follow up with MoU Focal Points	4, 5, 6
9. Develop a standard reporting format	7
10. Encourage Range States to undertake regular reporting on progress with implementation of the MoU and Strategy. Synthesize reports received into a summary report	7
11. Provide content to the CMS webpage on the MoU/Strategy (introduction to the Strategy/MoU, summarizing important meetings or activities supporting the MoU/Strategy's implementation, etc)	1, 3
12. Review project proposals and facilitate contact between relevant institutions and the donor community	1, 3, 4
13. Make available tools and guidelines for conservation and management of elephants to help implement the Strategy (e.g. mitigating human elephant conflict, translocation, managing local overpopulation, etc)	1, 3, 4

5. Outcomes of these activities are summarized in the Report of the Secretariat (Document UNEP/CMS/WAE1/Doc.4) and in the oral presentation to be provided by the Secretariat under item 5.2 of the provisional agenda (Document UNEP/CMS/WAE1/Doc.1). Financial needs to cover the costs of those activities were estimated to a total of USD 97,193. The CMS Secretariat made a contribution of USD 25,000 from the CMS regular budget towards those costs, the balance was projected to be covered by other contributions raised by IUCN.

6. Experience with implementation of MoUs over the years has clearly shown that a continued coordination mechanism is a crucial element to ensure the effective implementation of this type of instruments. Considering the positive outcomes of the collaboration with AfESG so far, and the role already identified for AfESG by the MoU text, the CMS Secretariat would be keen, with the endorsement of the Meeting of the Signatories, to further extend the arrangements in place during 2006-2008.

7. The main constraint in this regard is represented by the availability of adequate financial resources. It should also be noted that, after completing the activities provided for under the LoA in July 2008, the AfESG reported that the funding received had been insufficient. Potential avenues through which funding could be obtained are discussed below.

### **Potential funding mechanisms**

8. In the next section of the document some possibilities are presented concerning future funding of MoU coordination activities. However, the discussion need not to be limited to the potential avenues described below, as there may be other feasible avenues not contemplated.

#### *CMS Trust Fund*

9. CMS's budget for the 2009-2011 triennium approved by the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Rome in December 2008 was very tight as regards resources to support the implementation of the Convention. A limited annual budget for agreement development and servicing, amounting to EUR 54,317 and expected to cover all Agreement-related activities, will certainly not allow to support a coordination arrangement to a significant extent, probably not even to the level of the previous triennium.

#### *Voluntary Contributions*

10. This avenue would involve seeking voluntary contributions from donor States or organisations from outside the region covered by the MoU. The CMS Secretariat has actively fundraised to support implementation of existing CMS instruments such as MoUs, with significant results in a number of cases. In relation to this MoU, voluntary contributions have been provided by the governments of France (EUR 40,000) and of the Principality of Monaco (EUR 15,000), which allowed the convening of the present meeting. While the CMS Secretariat will certainly continue to explore this avenue, a main limit of this type of funding is however represented by its uncertainty and lack of continuity. In addition, for the allocation of this type of funding donors have shown in the past a definite preference towards supporting activities of limited duration such as individual projects or meetings rather than longer term activities of an institutional or administrative nature.

#### *Development and submission of conservation projects*

11. Individual conservation projects may, in addition to their immediate conservation objectives, have ancillary benefits with respect to MoU coordination and technical support. For example, where some MoU coordination and technical support activities are covered by activities undertaken for the project. In order to exploit significantly this option, it would be necessary that activities related to coordination and technical support be regularly integrated in project planning and budgeting, wherever possible.

#### *Voluntary Subscriptions*

12. Signing of the MoU does not imply any compulsory financial obligation for the Range States. However, this does not exclude the possibility of signatories paying subscriptions on a voluntary basis, aimed at supporting basic coordinating and technical support functions of the MoU. This could involve, for example, the payment of a triennial subscription fee. The amounts payable could be customised according to the capacity of the respective Signatory States to pay

such subscriptions, or defined on a lump sum basis. A noticeable example in this regard is represented by the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Gorillas and their Habitats (Rome, 29 November 2008), which unanimously agreed on the payment of a minimum annual voluntary subscriptions of EUR 3,000, on a lump sum basis.

**Action requested**

The Signatory States are invited to:

- consider and make recommendations as to the most appropriate mechanisms to obtain funding to cover the costs of the coordination of the MoU and technical support;
- express their views as regards the continuation of arrangements with IUCN/SSC AfESG for the coordination of the MoU;
- make any other consideration or recommendation concerning coordination of the MoU.