



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals



Report of the 14th meeting of the Standing Committee

Bonn, Germany, 29 February - 1 March 1996

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

Opening remarks

1. The Chairman opened the meeting, noting that all members of the Standing Committee were expected to be present, with the anticipated arrival later in the day of the representative from the Asian region. He welcomed the observers from Parties not members of the Committee, and expressed satisfaction at the participation of the Deputy Executive Director of UNEP, Dr. Reuben Olembo. (The complete list of participants appears at Annex 1.) He was pleased to see the addition to the Secretariat of a new staff member – Mr. Eric Blencowe – and said another officer would be introduced to the meeting on the following day. Finally, he expressed gratitude to the German Government for the excellent arrangements for the meeting.

1. The representative of the Depositary, Dr. Gerhard Emonds, also expressed gratitude for Dr. Olembo's presence, saying that this demonstrated the interest of the Executive Director of UNEP in the activities of CMS, and the level of progress which the Convention had achieved since its inception in 1972. He considered it important that UNEP remain interested in CMS, in the light of the advent of new conventions following the 1992 Earth Summit. He said the CMS was now a world-wide Convention. Although CMS – with 48 Parties so far – was not in the same league as CITES or the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), its significance should not be understated.

1. Dr. Olembo thanked the previous speakers for their remarks, and expressed gratitude to the Depositary for having hosted the Secretariat of the Convention for over 10 years. He went on to say that UNEP's presence at the meeting was a political signal intended to demonstrate both UNEP's continuing support for the Convention, and to express its view that CMS should receive treatment similar to that accorded to other related conventions. He recalled the host Government agreement reached many years before through an exchange of letters, and said that UNEP was presently reviewing the arrangements, taking into account the experience gained from CITES, CBD and other conventions whose secretariats UNEP administers.

1. Dr. Olembo welcomed CMS' role in the family of conventions concerned with biological diversity, and stressed the need to recognise the interrelationships among them. He mentioned the efforts undertaken by UNEP to co-ordinate the secretariats of environmental conventions, including the creation of a new post to oversee this activity. He stated that UNEP supported the co-location of secretariats of CMS Agreements for reasons of efficiency and synergy. He indicated that UNEP was facing a transitional period of difficulties as a result of a cutback of financial resources and a new organizational structure arising from the recently established United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON). However, if the Conference of the Parties to CMS wanted to elevate CMS to an even higher level, then UNEP was prepared to do its part.

Adoption of the Agenda

1. After welcoming the Deputy Executive Director's encouraging statement and expressing appreciation for the meeting venue, including interpretation facilities, provided by the German Government, the Co-ordinator introduced the proposed agenda (Annex 2) and schedule, which were adopted without modification. The rules of procedure were also adopted without amendment, however the representative of Africa (Niger) pointed out that there were still some minor discrepancies in the French translation which he would bring to the Secretariat's attention later. The Deputy Co-ordinator then listed the documents which had been prepared (Annex 3), pointing out that some were available only in English due to a number of difficulties encountered prior to the meeting.

Secretariat report on intersessional activities

Recruitment of new Parties

1. The Co-ordinator introduced document CMS/StC.14/Doc.4.1, and announced that Switzerland, Togo and Guinea Bissau had all joined the Convention since the last Standing Committee meeting. He added that Poland had submitted its instrument of accession on 1 February 1996, and that CMS would enter into force for that country on 1 May. With Poland, the number of Parties had reached 49 and there was every chance of passing 50 during 1996.

1. The Secretariat had continued its efforts to build contacts in non-Party States. There had been only limited success so far: it was clear that Ministers were much more aware of CMS as a result of the Secretariat's initiatives, but that a more targeted and higher-level approach was needed. A list of target countries was being drawn up with the help of WCMC, which had been contracted to prepare profiles of the key targets (see para. 53 below). Also, the Co-ordinator had approached the Executive Director of UNEP, to seek her personal involvement in diplomatic approaches. There were some areas where CMS was so poorly represented that even where work was being carried out, this was insufficient to attract new parties. He urged UNEP to recognise and pursue common interests and links between CMS and the other conventions which UNEP administers.

1. The representative of Europe (The Netherlands) said officials of the Russian Federation had intimated that the cost of national implementation, rather than the annual contributions, was the main reason for not joining CMS. He added that this applied to many other similar international agreements as far as Russia was concerned. The Deputy Executive Director of UNEP pointed out that Germany, as Depositary and host Government of the Convention, could through their own diplomatic efforts press the issue effectively if they were to include briefings on the subject in future meetings with relevant Ministers of the Russian Federation and other non-Party Range-State Governments. The Co-ordinator then described the efforts which the Depositary was making to stimulate interest in the Convention: it would soon focus recruitment efforts on certain countries, particularly those in Central and Eastern Europe. The German Environment Minister had given a speech at the Jakarta Biodiversity Convention meeting in 1995, urging non-Party Range-States of all environmental conventions to accede to these, and had made particular reference to CMS.

1. The Chairman commented that representation in Asia and Oceania was very weak. For Asia, most representation was from countries to the west. Some progress had been made in addressing the conservation of shorebirds in the Asia-Pacific flyway, and there was a potential for movement of this initiative towards a CMS framework. Progress in Oceania was disappointing: there had been hope that New Zealand would join with the Philippines and Australia, but no progress had been forthcoming. However, New Zealand had an inherent

interest in albatross

conservation and, if an Agreement were to be developed, it would be a key member. This could eventually encourage accession to the parent Convention. The Chairman concluded by stressing the importance of the UNEP Regional Office in Bangkok, which could assist in CMS activities in encouraging non-Parties to accede.

1. The Co-ordinator resumed with progress in Africa, and pointed to the valuable assistance that the AEWA would give to this process. The representative of Africa (Niger) applauded the efforts made to promote the Convention, and the recognition that countries which were especially important for migratory species should be targeted. He concluded his remarks by suggesting that many lessons could be learned from the activities of CITES: the EC Development Fund had been used to promote development and co-operation, and it should be possible to approach similar organisations for such assistance.

1. North America was still problematic, and awareness-raising would be accompanied by further diplomatic efforts once the Presidential elections were over. The Co-ordinator suggested that the Executive Director of UNEP could lobby her former colleagues in Canada to seek their support. Finally, the new member of the Secretariat could assist in promoting CMS in Spanish-speaking countries.

1. As a general remark, the Co-ordinator stated that it would be much easier to promote CMS membership if more activities to implement the Convention were undertaken. This however could not be done by the Secretariat, but would require more initiatives and active input by the Parties. In the absence of a number of key countries, international organizations such as UNEP should be called upon to support these endeavours, namely for developing countries.

1. The Chairman closed the subject by stating that, although CMS was in much better shape than it had been, progress was still needed in some areas. He suggested that the products of CMS – particularly the Agreements being developed and implemented under its auspices – would probably serve as added incentives to non-Party Range-States to join the Convention.

UNEP/CMS Secretariat staffing situation

1. The Co-ordinator introduced document CMS/StC.14/Doc.4.2, noting that the difficult staffing situation had constrained progress on the substantive programme agreed at the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Recently, however, there had been some positive developments. The Technical Officer would enter on duty the following day; the recruitment of the Information Officer was being finalised, and the officer would hopefully start work in mid-April. He went on to say that discussions in 1994 between UNEP and the CMS Secretariat on the provision of additional support in funding the appointment of an Administrative Officer had led to a vacancy announcement which was being circulated within UNEP. A deadline had been set for 4 March 1996. UNEP had agreed to fund the first year's costs, but the situation from 1997 onwards would have to be reviewed. The Deputy Executive Director could not add more to the information about the post than the Co-ordinator had provided. He said that the arrangements beyond 1996 could not be considered now; and that what had already been agreed should be implemented.

1. The Co-ordinator reported that the German Government had extended for three years (from May 1995) the secondment of Dr. Eugeniusz Nowak, who would continue to provide scientific advice to the Secretariat for 80% of his time. He would also provide assistance to the EUROBATS Secretariat, especially in the run-up to the second session of the Meeting of the Parties in 1998. The Co-ordinator reported that the EUROBATS Secretariat had been established in Bonn since the beginning of January 1996. Mr. Eric Blencowe was the half-time Executive

Secretary of the Secretariat, spending the other half of his time working on secondment from the UK Department of the Environment to assist the CMS Secretariat as a Special Projects Officer. The Co-ordinator and Chairman expressed gratitude to the Governments of Germany and the United Kingdom for these secondments. Owing to the impossibility for a German agency to second, in addition, a Junior Professional Officer to a German-based secretariat, the Co-ordinator appealed to other Parties to consider seconding a JPO to assist the Secretariat for 1-2 years.

1. The Chairman pointed to the interesting and encouraging link between the recently established Agreement secretariat and the CMS Secretariat. He was frustrated with the delays involved in employing the new staff agreed by the last Meeting of the Conference, and was keen to insist on the provision of minimum staffing levels, which still had not been reached. The Depositary also welcomed the positive developments, but stressed that the secondments should not be taken to mean that the requirements agreed at the last meeting of the Conference of the Parties should no longer be honoured. The representative suggested that the money saved on staff salaries over the last year could be used for employing temporary consultants.

1. The Deputy Co-ordinator confirmed that it was the Secretariat's intention to try to engage a consultant with appropriate skills to oversee the project work which the Committee had endorsed at its last meeting. Committee members concurred with this approach. The representative of Africa (Niger) felt that it was essential for the CMS Secretariat to be more visible on the ground, as other convention secretariats had been, and that consideration should be given to trying to take on volunteers as was the case with the IUCN Species Survival Commission.

1. The Deputy Executive Director of UNEP echoed the frustration felt at the delays involved in the employment of new staff, but he indicated that classification procedures for staff up to a certain level would be expedited once more administrative authority was delegated to the new United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON). He added that should the budget for core staff not be utilized the funds could be used to engage consultants; however the appointment of permanent staff who would otherwise have been financed from those monies would have to be temporarily suspended during the period the consultant was engaged. For non-permanent staff (i.e., with contracts of less than one year's duration), UNEP was considering delegating authority to the heads of organizations; recruitment would be straightforward because such individuals would not be eligible for full relocation costs.

1. The Chairman summarized the discussion stating that it was clear that the pre-conference needs may require that short-term consultants be engaged. It was agreed that the Secretariat should consult with the Chairman in the hiring of longer-term consultants, and he in turn would seek as necessary the Committee's advice.

Ongoing discussions on the relocation of the Secretariat within Bonn

1. The Co-ordinator introduced document CMS/StC.14/Doc.4.3, and outlined the history contained in the report. He said that the United Nations Volunteers (UNV), who would be the lead organisation in the new premises, had already concluded a Headquarters Agreement with the German Government. UNEP/CMS would have to negotiate separate arrangements with the UNV, UNDP (UNV parent organisation), the UN Secretariat and the German Government on headquarters matters, the administration of the building, and the payment of the associated costs.

1. The representative of the Depositary stressed that the CMS Secretariat would be treated in the same way as the other organisations which were to be accommodated in the building. It was important that the future accommodation requirements of Agreement secretariats, should

they come to Bonn, be taken account of in the current allocation of space since no additional space was likely to be forthcoming in the future.

1. At the suggestion of the Depositary, and with the agreement of the Committee, the Secretariat arranged for members to visit the new building at the end of the first day's proceedings, in order that members could see the accommodation and put any further questions they may have to the Depositary.

Update on CMS Agreements

1. The Secretariat presented the main points of document CMS/StC.14/Doc.4.4. The Co-ordinator noted that CMS, as a framework convention under which specific Agreements had to be developed, was quite different from other conventions like CITES or Ramsar. It was for this reason that it had taken 11 years to reach a stage where there was visible progress to report.

ASCOBANS

1. The Co-ordinator reported that, while the agreement would soon come into force for Poland, there had been no news from both France and the European Union, which had been expected to join in 1995. In addition to what was mentioned in the paper, the Co-ordinator reported that the Advisory Committee, having met twice in 1995, was likely to meet again in November 1996.

ACCOMABS

1. The Deputy Co-ordinator described the progress made towards the conclusion of an Agreement for the conservation of Mediterranean and Black Sea cetaceans. A negotiation meeting had been held in Monaco in September 1996, organized and co-sponsored by Monaco's Environment Service and UNEP/CMS, with additional financial support from France. He expressed concern that some momentum appeared to have been lost, since the Secretariat had not received responses from the authorities of Monaco, France or the European Union about arrangements for a final negotiation session – which had been provisionally planned for the first half of 1996.

EUROBATS

1. The Executive Secretary of the Bats AGREEMENT secretariat outlined the progress made since establishment in January of the permanent secretariat, and suggested that the special position he had was likely to bring more benefits to both the CMS and the Bats AGREEMENT. In addition, the arrangement served as an interesting model for possible future secretariats if they were also co-located with the CMS Secretariat. He reported that he was currently preparing the first meeting of the Advisory Committee, to be held from 18 to 19 April 1996.

AEWA

1. Having explained the background to the AGREEMENT, the Co-ordinator deferred to the representative of Europe (The Netherlands) to explain what progress had been made on the establishment of an interim secretariat. Dr. Boere said that Mr. Bert Lenten, an administrator in the Netherlands' national parks system, had been appointed to the secretariat. His role would be primarily of an administrative nature, as there was ample ornithological expertise among delegates of Parties to the AGREEMENT. Dr. Boere reported that amendments to the Russian text of the AGREEMENT had been completed, and the representative of Asia (Saudi Arabia) informed the Committee that the Arabic text was also now ready, bar some minor typographical amendments. With these developments, Dr. Boere considered that the AGREEMENT would

likely open for signature within the next two months.

1. Dr. Boere regretted the lack of active participation of the Russian Federation in the steps leading to the conclusion of the AGREEMENT, and explained this might be because of the eventual subscription fee, the costs of implementation, and confusion about whether membership in the AEWA would also require membership of CMS. The second and third concerns were to be addressed by a 1-2 day workshop which The Netherlands proposed to hold in the Russian Federation in May 1996. He concluded by referring to a recent meeting on a proposed central flyway agreement, which had taken place in Bombay in February, but he had no further information.

1. The Chairman thanked the Netherlands for the hard work on what was the most impressive Agreement so far negotiated in the CMS family. The Co-ordinator hoped that the Netherlands could be more specific about the date the Agreement would open for signature, with a view to having it announced before or during the Ramsar conference being held in Brisbane in the latter part of March.

Draft Asia-Pacific Waterbird Agreement

1. The Chairman, representing the Oceania region, referred to the progress on a flyway strategy and shorebird reserve network outlined in document CMS/StC.14/Doc.4.4. He said that while these activities were not presently being developed within the framework of a CMS-type Agreement, they were directly related to the work of CMS. He expected them in the longer term to be consolidated under a CMS umbrella.

Siberian crane Memorandum of Understanding

1. The Deputy Co-ordinator referred the Committee to the relevant section of document CMS/StC.14/Doc.4.4, and recounted the very positive developments that had taken place in recent months. A team of experts had succeeded in attaching a satellite transmitter to one of the few remaining birds in the Islamic Republic of Iran, and four Siberian cranes had returned to their traditional wintering ground in India, where they had not been observed for three years. A follow up to the successful workshop held in Moscow in May 1995 was tentatively planned for India in late 1996.

Slender-billed curlew

1. The Co-ordinator introduced the relevant section of Document CMS/StC.14/Doc.4.4, and added that representatives of Italy, Greece, Turkey and the Russian Federation had all expressed interest in signing the Memorandum of Understanding as soon as possible. He referred to the activities to be carried out under the MoU, and said that, although some funds would be provided from the CMS Trust Fund, more would be needed from elsewhere.

Houbara bustard

1. The Co-ordinator introduced the relevant section of document CMS/StC.14/Doc.4.4, and suggested postponing discussion until the following day, to allow him and the representative of Asia (Dr. Tatwany) to discuss the issues bilaterally. When the item was re-introduced, the Co-ordinator said that he had agreed to pursue rough costings for a possible consultancy contract with the IUCN Environmental Law Centre for the further development of the Agreement itself, and that Dr. Tatwany had agreed to do the same with the Government of Saudi Arabia. The Secretariat and Saudi Arabia would work together to have an Action Plan produced by experts. The Chairman expressed his gratitude on behalf of the Committee for the continuing support of

the Saudi Arabian Government for the development and implementation of an Agreement for the houbara bustard.

Great bustard

1. The Co-ordinator introduced the relevant section of document CMS/StC.14/Doc.4.4, noting that the Hungarian representative on the Scientific Council was expected to take the lead in the development of this Agreement. The representative of Africa (Niger) informed the Committee that bustard populations were also endangered in sub-Saharan zones, largely through habitat destruction and conflicts, and that they also should be given attention.

1. The representative of the Depositary concluded the discussion saying that CMS/StC.14/Doc.4.4 demonstrated how involved the Secretariat had become in the development of regional Agreements, despite insufficient staff resources. He attributed much of the success of CMS and the AEWA to the work of the Secretariat, and noted in particular the efforts of the Co-ordinator in securing 54 signatures to the Final Act of that Agreement.

Consultancies to promote the conservation of migratory species

1. The Deputy Co-ordinator presented document CMS/StC.14/Doc.4.5, recalling the decision of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to allocate a total of USD 500,000 for large consultancies. He described the initiatives already undertaken by the Secretariat in favour of four major species-groups: marine turtles, small cetaceans, migratory birds and terrestrial mammals. An agreement with the IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group would be concluded within a month or so, providing for a wide range of concrete actions to promote the conservation of marine turtles. CMS had already sponsored a successful workshop in South Africa in November 1995, and another was planned for India in 1996. A CMS project to study the distribution and abundance of cetaceans in Philippine and Malaysian waters would commence soon; and additional projects in CMS Party Range States were planned in consultation with the Chairman of the IUCN Cetacean Specialist Group and the Scientific Council expert on small cetaceans. CMS had provided funding for a recent workshop on the houbara bustard, and funds would be made available for conservation actions in favour of the Slender-billed curlew and the Siberian crane.

1. The Co-ordinator added that progress on an action plan for Sahelo-Saharan ungulates and a positive meeting of Range States late in 1996 or early in 1997 might contribute to the elaboration of a first draft of an Agreement before the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The representative of Africa (Niger) was certain that delegates would attend a proposed meeting in Mali. In response to the Co-ordinator's suggestion that the meeting be held in conjunction with a proposed IUCN/CITES meeting on elephants in Dakar, Senegal, he stated this might confuse the issue and would surely overshadow the CMS aspect of the meeting. The Chairman agreed, emphasizing the importance of promoting the parent Convention and the proposed Agreement.

1. In concluding the discussion, the Chairman thanked the Secretariat for all of the activities described in the paper, particularly in the light of such tight staff constraints. He went on to add that the Australian Environment Minister had announced two weeks before that Australia would pursue the inclusion of a number of albatross species in the CMS Appendices. This might lead to an Agreement and could also encourage New Zealand – a key Range State – as well as other southeast Asian non-Parties to join the Convention.

Standing Committee promotion of CMS, including Agreements, on a regional basis

1. The representative of Africa (Niger) apologised for not having produced a report on his promotional activities, but indicated that this did not mean nothing had been done. On the contrary, much had been achieved during the course of seminars and other meetings, and through personal contacts, to familiarise people with CMS. He was also involved in the development of a regional plan to conserve migratory birds, although this was at an early stage. Mr. Saadou was keen to establish links with countries at the other end of the migratory range, and would appreciate the help of the Secretariat in establishing links particularly with Finland and the United Kingdom.

1. The representative of the Americas and the Caribbean (Panama) presented a short paper. At the CITES Standing Committee meeting in March 1995, he had approached the delegations of Mexico, Japan, Trinidad and Tobago, Colombia, Brazil and the Dominican Republic to urge them to join CMS. They were all keen, but apparently did not have the Convention texts in the appropriate languages. He had also approached representatives of Nicaragua, Guatemala and El Salvador with whom he had excellent relations. He would continue to urge non-Parties to join.

1. Prof. Botello also referred to a proposal for a presentation to be given in March 1996 to Geneva-based Ambassadors of South and Central American states, and sought CMS participation. The Co-ordinator said that although it would in principle be possible for the Secretariat to deliver a paper, it was unlikely that he or his Deputy could attend at such short notice. He was surprised that the relevant copies of the Spanish text of the Convention (i.e., the unofficial versions prepared by the Secretariat) were not finding their way to the appropriate personnel in Spanish-speaking countries, and assumed that this was a result of lack of communication between Ministries in the respective countries. He offered to send all relevant information on CMS to the appropriate Embassies in Geneva. The representative of the Americas hoped the Co-ordinator would decide soon whether or not CMS could attend, because his Ambassador in Geneva would be considering the matter shortly.

1. The representative of Europe (The Netherlands) apologised for not having produced a report on efforts taken in his region to solicit support for the Convention, and referred to his statement made earlier under a previous agenda item (para. 8 above).

1. The representative of the Depositary spoke of the work Germany was doing to promote CMS as widely as possible. In addition to the strong statement delivered by the German Environment Minister at the Jakarta Biodiversity meeting, the Foreign Office was pursuing the issue through their diplomatic channels, in an increasingly targeted way.

Correction of the official texts of the Convention

1. The representative of the Depositary reported that the United Nations Secretariat sought the Appendices in three languages (English, French and Spanish). The texts themselves had been submitted and had been accepted as official. Chinese, Russian, Arabic and German texts were not yet ready to be sent to New York, but should be completed during 1996. They would then need to be circulated to the respective countries for checking. It was the Depositary's intention to have all language versions submitted to New York by the next meeting of the Standing Committee.

1. The representative of Asia (Saudi Arabia) announced that the Arabic text – which Saudi Arabia had offered at the last meeting to examine – had been reviewed and corrected, and that it was now satisfactory. He explained that a translation of the species names into Arabic had not

been provided; this exercise would cause major difficulties since harmonization of the Arabic names had never been attempted. Therefore only the remarks and geographical annotations for certain species had been translated. He then presented the document to the representative of the Depository.

Status of contributions to the CMS Trust Fund, CMS budget and resources

1. The Deputy Co-ordinator introduced document CMS/StC.14/Doc.7, saying that 87 percent of the total funds pledged for 1995 had been received; 90 percent of the amount outstanding could be attributed to just three Parties: Italy, Argentina and South Africa. Since the time of writing, South Africa had confirmed that its 1994 payment had in fact been effected and that that of 1995 was being processed. The largest single outstanding contribution was that of Italy, amounting to USD 293,954 as of the end of 1995. [*Note of the Secretariat: 1) Argentina has since paid its outstanding contributions through the end of 1995; and 2) the CMS Focal Point for Italy announced on 23 March 1996 that the pay advice for Italy's outstanding contribution to the end of 1995 had been sent from his Ministry to the Government's financial institution, and that payment would be effected within the next 30 days.*]

1. He went on to report that the amnesty programme provided for under Resolution 4.4, Action 20 (Nairobi, 1994), whereby outstanding contributions up to \$5000 prior to 1991 would be forgiven in exchange for full payment of the remainder, appeared to have had some positive results. Hungary automatically qualified for a waiver of two years' subscriptions, Israel had recently paid in full all outstanding amounts, and Niger had also made arrangements to do so. There remained five Parties who had not yet reacted to the amnesty offer: Benin, Cameroon, Egypt, Senegal and Somalia.

1. The Deputy Co-ordinator apologized that UNEP had been unable to produce in time for the meeting an update of the status of the CMS Trust Fund or expenditure figures for 1995, because it was in the midst of closing the previous years' accounts. However, according to the Secretariat's own figures, 1995 expenditures were well below budget (mainly due to unfilled professional staff posts), while those for 1996 were expected to be much closer to those budgeted for. Indeed, higher than expected relocation costs for new staff were anticipated in 1996, and budget lines for staff-related costs would be overstepped: first, because of the Deutsche Mark's strength against the US Dollar (since the adoption of the budget in mid-1994) and, secondly, because a revision of the salary scale for General Service Staff had resulted in higher rates of pay. He concluded his remarks with an assessment that the Trust Fund and budgetary situation remained healthy.

Matters of the Scientific Council relating to the work of the Standing Committee

1. Having introduced Document CMS/StC.14/Doc.7, the Deputy Co-ordinator handed over to the Chairman of the Scientific Council, Dr. Pierre Devillers, to elaborate on the Council's findings regarding the terms "endangered" and "incidental taking". In response to concerns raised about the import of the Council's work, the Deputy Co-ordinator clarified that the Council's interpretation of term "endangered" was intended to be submitted, as a draft resolution, to the Conference of the Parties for review. The interpretation of the term "incidental taking" was merely a finding of the Council, and no decision had been taken as to whether or not a more formal statement was needed. The Chairman was of the opinion that the latter interpretation had been particularly helpful, and the Committee agreed that both interpretations should be placed before the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to consider.

1. On the subject of the review of the CMS Appendices, the Chairman of the Scientific Council stated that this was not a high-priority task, but that an integrated look at the species listings should be carried out to see if there were any glaring discrepancies. He had already had informal discussions with the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) as potential contractors to carry out the work. The Standing Committee agreed that these should continue towards the possible conclusion of a consultancy.

1. The Scientific Council Chairman referred to the possibility of holding a symposium on animal migration during the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Deputy Co-ordinator advised that this was scheduled to take place on Sunday, 13 April 1997. Although the main subject would be the effect of habitat loss on migratory species, further concerns such as those expressed by Niger about the effect of regional conflicts and other acts of aggression could also be included.

1. It had been foreseen, when the Scientific Council met in November 1995, that the host country for the conference would organize the symposium – however, this arrangement was no longer applicable (see para. 53 below). The Deputy Co-ordinator pointed out that the Secretariat itself would be unable to organise the symposium. Indeed, it was precisely because the Secretariat would need time during the main conference to catch up on essential tasks that such a symposium had been proposed, as a break in the schedule. He had had informal contacts with IUCN about the possibility of IUCN at least providing the venue (in Gland, Switzerland, a half hour drive from Geneva). Simultaneous interpretation was not envisaged, for technical and financial reasons. The Committee agreed that the Secretariat should explore the option of having IUCN arrange the symposium under a consultancy.

Arrangements for the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

1. The Deputy Co-ordinator introduced document CMS/StC.14/Doc.8, informing the Committee that, although it had been hoped that COP5 would take place in the Philippines, it had not been possible for the responsible authorities there to secure in a timely manner the necessary approval to proceed. After many months of correspondence, the Secretariat had concluded, in consultation with the Chairman of the Standing Committee, that the meeting would have to be held at the United Nations Office at Geneva. The Deputy Co-ordinator confirmed that the dates had been fixed from 7-16 April 1997. The conference itself (10-16 April) would be preceded by meetings of the Standing Committee and Scientific Council, and would be interrupted (on 13 April) by a symposium on animal migration. The representative of Africa (Niger) regretted that it had proved not possible to host the meeting in South Africa, another early candidate which had withdrawn its bid in June 1995. He suggested a future meeting should be held in Africa or South America, as this alone would encourage more non-Parties to join CMS.

1. Some Committee members questioned the scheduling of the Standing Committee meeting before the Scientific Council meeting, which would leave a number of delegates waiting two days for the conference to begin, while the Scientific Council met. The Deputy Co-ordinator said this had been proposed for financial reasons, there being several more Scientific Council experts whose travel and accommodation were being paid for by the Secretariat and who would themselves have a day off while the Standing Committee met.

1. The Chairman requested the Secretariat to examine the relative costs and strongly suggested that consideration be given to swapping the order of the two meetings. The Committee directed the Secretariat to prepare a more detailed timetable for their next meeting, taking account of concerns expressed by Committee members about the need for a clear separation in the way the plenary and technical and administrative committees functioned. The paper should

include a proposal of how the different items and areas of work should be handled programmatically during the meeting. It was proposed that at least a scientific committee and a finance working group would be needed. Finally, the Committee agreed that the Secretariat should continue to liaise with IUCN on the arrangements for a possible symposium.

Standing Committee programme to be completed before COP5

Target list of non-Party States

1. The Deputy Co-ordinator introduced Document CMS/StC.14/Doc.9.1, which included the terms of reference for a project to be carried out by WCMC that aimed to identify key non-Parties for recruitment efforts and to prepare concise profiles of those countries, particularly with regard to their importance for migratory species. WCMC had already prepared at short notice two sample draft profiles which had been circulated at the meeting for comment. The Secretariat sought the Standing Committee's advice before instructing WCMC to continue with the preparation of the remaining profiles, about 20 in all. Committee members were generally in favour of the targeted approach, and this was echoed by the Deputy Executive Director of UNEP, who said it would be useful to use such information in UNEP's promotional activities carried out on behalf of the conventions it administered.

1. The Committee did, however, express general concern about some of the observations made in the two papers it reviewed: although most of the detail was factual there were elements of opinions expressed which might do harm to the interests of the Convention if the profiles were released in those countries. The Chair recommended that the document remain confidential, and not be circulated further until revisions were made. The Committee agreed that the document should go back to WCMC with the Standing Committee's and the Secretariat's comments, with a clear instruction that the profiles should include only factual information. The Deputy Co-ordinator proposed that WCMC's work be completed, if possible, by the end of May or June, at which time the finished profiles would be circulated to all Standing Committee members and to the Executive Director of UNEP to assist them in their promotional activities in the countries concerned.

Consultancy to assist developing countries prepare proposals for GEF, and to investigate options for providing support other than direct financial assistance to certain countries

1. The Co-ordinator reported that, owing to staff constraints, no progress had been possible on this matter. He recognised that it was assuming an increasing importance, however it required significant work for which Secretariat resources were not yet available.

Proposal for guidelines on the harmonisation of Agreements

1. The Co-ordinator explained the contents of document CMS/StC.14/Doc.9.2, and sought the Standing Committee's approval to establish a framework agreement with the IUCN Environmental Law Centre (ELC). The Secretariat's aim was to enter into a longer-term arrangement – one that would be easier to administer from a bureaucratic stand-point – under which IUCN/ELC would provide advice on legal questions arising from CMS activities. The Standing Committee agreed to the Co-ordinator's request. The finance required for such a contract needed also to be agreed in advance. The Committee agreed that the Secretariat should prepare a proposal for consideration by the Chairman, who would also take into account the funds available in the CMS budget.

Amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the COP

1. The Deputy Co-ordinator explained the proposed amendments to the rules of procedure outlined in document CMS/StC.14/Doc.9.3, concerning voting rights, seating limitations, discussion of amendment proposals and sessional committees. Apart from some linguistic nuances which the Committee agreed could be sorted out on a bilateral basis, the representative of the Americas (Panama) was concerned about the provision for a secret ballot if only one candidate were proposed in elections for officers or prospective host-countries. The representative of the Depositary reported that, in CITES, this had proved necessary in order to avoid the embarrassment having to vote against a single candidate. The Committee instructed the Secretariat to examine the problem and to prepare a paper for the next Standing Committee meeting, taking into account the practice followed in other Conventions.

Revision/update of the Strategy for the Future Development of the Convention

1. The Deputy Co-ordinator said insufficient staff resources had once again prevented further action to edit and publish the 1994 version of the Strategy. The Committee agreed to his suggestion that, as the Secretariat had also been directed to prepare a new version for the 1997 COP, it should combine the two tasks. That is, the Secretariat would update the existing document in light of the comments made at the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the events of the intervening 18 months, and circulate the new version to the Standing Committee for comment at least one month before the next meeting.

Co-location of Agreement secretariats

1. The Deputy Co-ordinator detailed the contents of document CMS/StC.14/Doc.10, explaining that a working group (comprising the Depositary, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom) had met in August 1995 to consider possible arrangements for secretariats of CMS Agreements having a European focus. The Working Group had concluded that full integration within the parent UNEP/CMS Secretariat would be the most efficient arrangement, provided certain existing difficulties could be overcome. The Executive Director of UNEP had endorsed the concept, and the paper prepared by the Secretariat outlined in general terms a number of issues that needed to be addressed and elaborated in a more detailed proposal, namely concerning personnel matters, financial arrangements, payment of contributions, and administrative services.

1. The model proposed by the Working Group was discussed by the Committee, and the Deputy Executive Director of UNEP clarified that, under such an arrangement, each secretariat's contributions would be subject to the same 13% overhead charge as the conventions which UNEP currently administered. For this they would receive the same arrangements and favourable terms.

1. The Committee instructed the Secretariat to develop the proposal further, liaising with UNEP, and to produce a further paper for the next Standing Committee meeting. The paper should clearly define the relationship between CMS, the Agreement secretariats and UNEP, and describe the secretariat services that would be provided, including costs and benefits. The Committee also agreed that the Working Group should continue its work and meet again before the full meeting of the Standing Committee. The Deputy Co-ordinator reported that the United Kingdom, which was not present at the meeting, had expressed interest in continuing to participate.

CMS linkages with other relevant Conventions

1. The Co-ordinator introduced document CMS/StC.14/Doc.11, describing in some detail the contacts already made with other conventions, which would be intensified in the future. He added that, with the eventual inclusion of albatrosses in the CMS Appendices and the development of an Agreement for their conservation, he was optimistic that links would also be forged with the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR).

1. The Chairman thanked UNEP for having organised the co-ordination meetings of convention secretariats, and added that it was still important for CMS to conclude MoUs with other conventions, such as CBD, CITES and Ramsar. He concluded by saying it would be helpful to conclude some of these before the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The representative of Africa (Niger) echoed the Chairman's remarks, referring also to the Algiers Convention, and added that integration of CMS efforts with those of other successful conventions would help to promote the Convention. The Chair instructed the Secretariat to submit a further report on progress in this area to the next meeting of the Standing Committee.

Miscellaneous

Promotional activities

1. The Deputy Co-ordinator explained that no document had been prepared for this agenda item. He was pleased to announce that in addition to having a wide range of CMS information provided in English on the World Wide Web of the Internet, this same material was now available also in French and Spanish. The Secretariat had collaborated in this fruitful initiative with WCMC, which was providing the service at no cost, for which CMS should be very grateful. He added the Secretariat might later consider expanding the ambit of the MoU under which WCMC had carried out the task.

Guidelines for acceptance of financial contributions from individual companies and private individuals

1. The Co-ordinator stated there had been no opportunity to seek such voluntary contributions, and there would be no capacity in the Secretariat to draft such guidelines in the foreseeable future. The Depositary pointed out that similar guidelines were available for CITES. The Chair deferred consideration of this item until the next Standing Committee meeting.

Role of NGOs in CMS

1. The Co-ordinator introduced Document CMS/StC.14/Doc.11, and expressed gratitude about the opportunity of working closely with specialist NGOs, such as the former IWRB, RSPB, IUCN and WWF. The Chair applauded the impressive list of activities in which NGOs had been involved, and particularly the recent increase in contacts with the IUCN Species Survival Commission.

1. The representative of Europe (The Netherlands) reported on a 1995 flyway symposium organized by Friends of the Earth in Spain. The Netherlands had been represented and had given a presentation on AEWA; he expressed concern that that NGO's proposed activities might duplicate what was already agreed under the AEWA. The Co-ordinator said he had heard about the meeting and, being unable to attend, had sent a welcoming address. He had not heard back whether this had been circulated to the participants.

1. The Co-ordinator mentioned that the Secretariat was keen to establish closer links with NGOs who had a substantive involvement in conservation, rather than those who were more interested in purely presentational and political issues. He asked whether it would be possible to secure institutional support from IUCN as was provided for CITES, CBD and Ramsar. The Committee supported this idea and the Chairman's suggestion that he and the Co-ordinator approach the Director-General of IUCN on this matter during the forthcoming Ramsar conference.

Any other business

Accommodation of Wetlands International

1. The Committee noted that both Germany and the Netherlands had offered to accommodate Wetlands International (WI), and that WI's decision had not yet been made. While recognizing the sensitivity of discussing the issue in this forum, as had been proposed by the representative of the Depositary, the Chairman asked if other Committee members had any view on the subject. After a general discussion from which the representatives of Europe (The Netherlands) and the Depositary (Germany) abstained, the Chairman summarized the view of the Committee as follows: although it would be in the interest of the implementation of CMS and the AEWA (once the secretariat functions are provided by the CMS Secretariat) to facilitate the intensive and day-to-day co-operation with Wetlands International, the Committee declined to make any specific recommendation on Wetland International's future location. The CMS Secretariat would be advised to seek the best co-operation under whatever circumstances presented themselves.

Poaching of gorillas in central Africa

1. The representative of the Depositary reported a recent Parliamentary question about reports of mass poaching of *Gorilla gorilla ringii* and other apes in the central African region. Accounts suggested that this trade was being fuelled by the extensive road-construction and de-forestation to gain access to previously barely accessible areas. The apes were then sold to those persons cutting down the trees or working on the roads. He understood that this was a particular problem in Zaire, and was interested to know whether Zaire had introduced legislation banning the killing of these animals. The Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to find out more information and to report back. The representative of the Embassy of Zaire attending the meeting as an observer promised to report to his Government and to seek the requested information.

Date and venue of the next meeting of the Standing Committee

1. The Committee agreed to leave exact details to the Secretariat in consultation with the Chairman and the Depositary, as appropriate, but it would take place some time in December 1996 or January 1997.

Closure of the meeting

1. There being no further business, the Chairman thanked the host Government for its hospitality and, in particular, for having again provided the excellent interpretation which had greatly facilitated the deliberations. He thanked all the participants and the Secretariat for their valuable contributions and support, and closed the meeting at 13h30.

**14th Meeting of the CMS Standing Committee
Bonn, 29 February - 1 March 1996**

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Chair:

Australia (Oceania) Dr. Peter Bridgewater (Chair)

Vice-Chair:

Panama (Americas) Dr. Dimas Botello

Members:

Netherlands (Europe) Dr. Gerard Boere
Niger (Africa) Dr. Elhadji Maman Saadou
Saudi Arabia (Asia) Dr. Hany Tatwany
Germany (Depositary) Dr. Gerhard Emonds
Mr. Gerhard Adams
Ms. Astrid Thyssen
Ms. Hahn

Observers:

Benin Ms. Mariam Diallo
Benin Mr. Jean Francis Zinsou
Mali Ms. Ami Diallo
Slovakia Dr. Jaroslav Švec
Togo Ms. Senaya
Zaire Mr. Ziangba Bega

Chairman of the Scientific Council
Dr. Pierre Devillers
UNEP Nairobi Dr. Reuben Olembo

UNEP/CMS Secretariat:

Mr. Arnulf Müller-Helmbrecht
Mr. Douglas Hykle
Mr. Pablo Canevari
Mr. Eugeniusz Nowak
Mr. Eric Blencowe

**14th Meeting of the CMS Standing Committee
Bonn, 29 February – 1 March 1996**

AGENDA

1. Opening remarks by the Chairman and the Secretariat
2. Adoption of the agenda, work programme and rules of procedure
3. Secretariat report on intersessional activities:
 - a)
Recruitment of new Parties
 - b)
UNEP/CMS Secretariat staffing situation
 - c)
Ongoing discussions on the relocation of the Secretariat within Bonn
 - d)
Update on CMS Agreements (AEWA, ACCOBAMS, ASCOBANS, European Bats, Siberian crane, Slender-billed curlew, Houbara bustard etc.)
 - e)
Consultancies to promote the conservation of migratory species (development of Agreements, funding of conservation and research activities, workshops etc.)
4. Standing Committee promotion of CMS, including Agreements, on a regional basis (cf. Resolution 4.4 / Action 23)
5. Correction of the official texts of the Convention (Depositary)
6. Review of status of contributions to the CMS Trust Fund, CMS budget and resources
7. Arrangements for the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP5)
8. Standing Committee programme to be completed before COP5 (specific items):
 - a)
Develop target list of non-Party States on which to concentrate recruitment efforts (Resolution 4.4 / Action 2)
 - b)
Consultancy to assist developing countries prepare proposals for submission to GEF (Resolution 4.4 / Action 10) and to investigate options for providing support other than direct financial assistance to certain countries (Resolution 4.4 / Action 4)
 - c)
Proposal for Guidelines on the Harmonization of Agreements

(Resolution 4.3)

d)
Amend rules of procedure of the COP (e.g., removal of voting
rights for non-contributors etc.) Resolution 4.4 / Action
20

e)
Revision / update of the *Strategy for the Future Development
of the Convention* (Resolution 4.4)

9. Co-location of Agreement secretariats (Resolution 4.4 /
Action 18)

10. CMS linkages with other relevant Conventions

11. Matters of the Scientific Council relating to the work of
the Standing Committee

12. Date and venue of the next meeting of the Standing Committee

13. Miscellaneous

a)
Promotional activities

b)
Guidelines for acceptance of financial contributions from
individuals and private companies

c)
Role of NGOs in CMS (Resolution 4.4 / Action 25)

14. Any other business

**14th Meeting of the CMS Standing Committee
Bonn, 29 February – 1 March 1996**

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Doc. 1	Provisional agenda		
Doc. 2	Provisional schedule		
Doc. 3	List of documents (Rev.1 F/S)		
D	o c . Recruitment of new Parties	4	1
D	o c . UNEP/CMS staffing situation	4	2
D	o c . Ongoing discussions on the relocation of the Secretariat within Bonn	4	3
D	o c . Update on CMS Agreements	4	4
D	o c . Consultancies to promote the conservation of migratory species	4	5
Doc. 5	Standing Committee promotion of CMS, including Agreements, on a regional basis		
Doc. 6	Correction of the official texts of the Convention (Depositary)		
Doc. 7	Review of status of contributions to the CMS Trust Fund, CMS budget and resources		
Doc. 8	Arrangements for the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP5)		
D	o c . Development of profiles of non-Parties targetted for recruitment	9	1
D	o c . Proposal for guidelines on the harmonization of future Agreements	9	2
D	o c . Provisional Rules Of Procedure for the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties	9	3
D	o c . Co-location of Agreement secretariats	1	0
D	o c . CMS linkages with other relevant Conventions	1	1
D	o c . Matters of the Scientific Council relating to the work of	1	2

the Standing Committee

D o c . 1 3
 Miscellaneous items

Inf. 1 Report of the 13th meeting of the Standing Committee (Bonn,
March 1995)

Inf. 2 Rules of Procedure of the Standing Committee

Inf. 3 CMS Agreement Summary Sheets