



**CMS**



# CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

Distribution: General

UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.9  
23 October 2014

Original: English

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11<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Quito, Ecuador, 4-9 November 2014

Agenda Item 9

## REPORT TO THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES OF WILD ANIMALS AT ITS ELEVENTH MEETING



# **Report to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals at its eleventh meeting**

## **I. Introduction**

1. The present report has been prepared by the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals to be held in Quito from 4 to 9 November 2014. It provides information on UNEP activities in the areas of migratory species relevant to the Convention for the period 1 January 2012 to 31 October 2014. Additional information in the form of publications and documents will be made available by UNEP to the Conference of Parties at its eleventh meeting as well as on the UNEP website (<http://www.unep.org>).

2. Section II of the report covers UNEP responses to the resolutions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting and other important programmatic areas addressing migratory species concerns.

3. Section III of the report provides information on administrative support to the Convention.

## **II. UNEP responses to resolutions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting**

4. The present section provides information on activities undertaken by UNEP through its programmes of work for the bienniums 2011–2012 and 2013–2014, and those planned for the current biennium, 2014–2015.

### **Resolution 10.4. Marine debris**

5. In paragraph 9 of resolution 10.4, the Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to foster linkages with relevant regional and other international instruments, such as the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), UNEP regional seas conventions and other forums, to promote synergies, to avoid duplication, and to maximize efforts to reduce the impact of marine debris on migratory species.

6. In support of this resolution, the United Nations Environment Assembly at its first session, held in Nairobi from 23 to 27 June 2014, adopted resolution 1/6 on marine plastic debris and microplastics, in which it requested the Executive Director of UNEP, in consultation with other relevant institutions and stakeholders, to undertake a study on marine plastic debris and marine microplastics and to present the study for the consideration of the Assembly at its second session. Planning for the study, which will be carried out in the framework of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter ([www.gpa.unep.org/index.php/global-partnership-on-marine-litter](http://www.gpa.unep.org/index.php/global-partnership-on-marine-litter)), is under way.

7. Moreover, UNEP, as the secretariat of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter, in collaboration with FAO, IMO and other partners, contributes to the implementation of decision 10.4 where possible and appropriate with a focus on increasing the understanding of sources, fate and impacts of microplastics in the marine environment including those originating from primary sources, such as microplastics in personal care and cosmetics products, as well as secondary sources. It also contributes to the valuation of the environmental costs of plastic and supports the development of regional, national and municipal action plans on marine litter. The Global Partnership provides support for desk review studies of technologies and methodologies used to remove abandoned, lost or discarded fishing gear from the marine environment and it provided support for a report on methods to estimate the efficiency and duration of ghost fishing, estimates of derelict gear, estimates of megafauna ghost fishing mortality, and regional fisheries organization management measures.

8. In addition, through the Global Partnership, UNEP provides support for the review and analysis of national and regional legal and policy frameworks for selected countries and regions where recovery and clean-up missions have been successful. A demonstration project was implemented in Apia to raise awareness on the issue of marine debris and demonstrate effective waste management measures that can be implemented in Pacific island countries, including the development of awareness and media resources on marine debris and effective waste management. The project aims to improve waste management in Apia port for small island developing States conference facilities and to enhance the engagement of the Apia community in waste management measures.

#### **Resolution 10.6. 2012–2014 capacity-building activities**

9. In support of resolution 10.6, UNEP, through the regional biodiversity multilateral environmental agreement focal point for Africa and in collaboration with the Convention on Migratory Species secretariat, organized and conducted a capacity-building workshop for thirteen anglophone African countries in Harare in November 2012. The aim of the workshop was to discuss how to integrate the objectives of the Convention into the updating of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) in order to achieve greater coherence and efficiency in the national implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions. The workshop was intended to address the concerns of African countries that the integration of issues related to other biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements was not reflected in the first generation of NBSAPs. The main outcome of the workshop was that the participants welcomed the integration of the objectives of other biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements into NBSAPs. In addition, as a result of the experience, similar workshops were replicated in the participants' respective countries with the aim of promoting the synergistic implementation of the multilateral environmental agreements and developing common best practice with tangible targets in order to improve policy and administrative coordination of biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements in the NBSAP process.

10. Through its Regional Office for Africa, UNEP collaborated with the Convention secretariat to organize a regional workshop, held in Harare from 21 to 23 September 2014, in preparation for the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The aim of the workshop was to strengthen the capacity of the national focal points in the implementation of the Convention, as well as their negotiation skills.

11. Through its Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, UNEP provided support to the Convention secretariat in organizing the Pacific regional joint preparatory meeting for the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species and the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention), held in Nadi, Fiji from 11 to 15 August 2014, and the Pacific regional preparatory meeting for the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species held in Nadi, Fiji, from 18 to 20 August 2014, in order to support the preparations of the Pacific island countries. UNEP provided various inputs, particularly in the areas related to promoting synergies in the implementation of biodiversity-related conventions, showcasing the "MEA Information and Knowledge Management Initiative", particularly the information portal on multilateral environmental agreements, known as "InforMEA", as well as a project on improving the effectiveness of and cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions and exploring opportunities for further synergies, implemented by the UNEP Division of Environmental Laws and Conventions and the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC). UNEP also provided inputs to the meetings by sharing an overview of the focal areas under the sixth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in order to encourage the parties to develop potential regional projects that support the implementation of the Convention.

#### **Resolution 10.7. Outreach and communication issues**

12. Through other multilateral environmental agreements and the "MEA Information and Knowledge Management Initiative" (MEA IKM), UNEP has continued providing support to the Convention on Migratory Species by disseminating information in support of knowledge management activities for the benefit of parties and the environment community at large. The decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species and the Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory

Waterbirds, together with news, country data and national reports relating to the Convention on Migratory Species are now automatically harvested into the InforMEA web platform ([www.informea.org](http://www.informea.org)).

13. Furthermore, through InforMEA and in close cooperation with the Convention on Migratory Species secretariat, UNEP has developed an e-learning course which is based on the secretariat's recently published "Manual for the national focal points for CMS and its instruments" (available from [e-learning.informea.org](http://e-learning.informea.org)). The Convention on Migratory Species module is one of the first modules of the InforMEA e-learning tool, which aims to build knowledge and a greater understanding of international environmental law and multilateral environmental agreements. The course is available free of charge and can be taken in a self-paced manner according to the individual learner's needs.

14. In addition, MEA IKM provides a forum for multilateral environmental agreement secretariats to discuss and work towards enhanced interoperability of information received through online reporting systems, and promotes the use of available reporting platforms and tools through dedicated meetings, including the work of the MEA IKM sub-working group on the further development of the online reporting system by UNEP-WCMC.

15. Through WCMC, UNEP has continued to develop the online reporting system to support national reporting processes for the multilateral environmental agreements. UNEP-WCMC has provided training on the use of the system to the secretariat staff of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds, the Convention on Migratory Species, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention). The secretariats of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds and the Convention on Migratory Species have now both used the online reporting system for their national reporting cycles. UNEP is engaged in discussions on this tool with other conventions, including the Convention on Biological Diversity. UNEP-WCMC is currently planning a meeting, funded by the Government of Switzerland, to bring together the technical experts within the secretariats of the six biodiversity-related conventions and other relevant partners in order to discuss online reporting. Discussions are under way with regard to strengthening the system in the context of support to countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific.

16. UNEP, through WCMC, produced the 2014 "Analysis and synthesis of CMS national reports", which will be presented to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species at its eleventh meeting (agenda item 19.3). The analysis provides an overview of the status of implementation of the Convention as reflected in the information provided by parties in their national reports, and makes a number of recommendations for the consideration of the parties on the basis of the conclusions drawn in order to improve the implementation of the Convention. The online reporting system, used by parties to complete and submit their national reports, was also used by UNEP-WCMC to produce the analysis.

17. "Species+", a website designed to assist parties in implementing various multilateral environmental agreements developed by UNEP-WCMC in conjunction with the CITES secretariat, was launched in November 2013. Species+ contains taxonomic, distribution and listing information on all species listed in the appendices to the Convention on Migratory Species and other Convention family agreements and memorandums of understanding, as well as information on species listed in the CITES appendices (see <http://speciesplus.net/>). Species+ is searchable by higher taxonomic groups and countries of distribution and offers an easy way of downloading tailored species lists by country, thereby supporting national focal points in their implementation of the Convention. Liaison with the Convention secretariat is under way in order to implement a web feed to display Convention species data directly from the Convention's species database in Species+.

18. Through WCMC, UNEP has continued to provide support for taxonomic capacity and implementation of the Convention family and the wider Global Taxonomy Initiative, including through technical input provided to the Convention's ad hoc meeting on harmonization of bird taxonomy and through the development and maintenance of Species+, which provides nomenclature information relevant to the implementation of the Convention on Migratory Species and CITES.

19. Through WCMC, UNEP has continued to review barriers to data access and opportunities for addressing them in the context of both the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (where this has been identified as a capacity-building need) and is in the process of drafting a paper on possible next steps in addressing the identified barriers. Biodiversity data held in the Species+ database, the CITES Trade Database, the World Database of Protected Areas and the Ocean Data Viewer all continue to be publically available and accessible via the Internet.

**Resolution 10.8. Cooperation between the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and CMS**

20. In support of resolution 10.8, on cooperation between the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the Convention on Migratory Species, UNEP provided support for the participation of the Chair of the Scientific Council and his representative in meetings of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel of the Platform as observers and in accordance with the rules of procedures of the Platform. UNEP continues to support the Platform by providing secretariat-related backstopping and related services.

21. The Convention on Migratory Species submitted a number of requests to the Platform in accordance with its procedures for prioritizing and receiving requests. The results of this exercise were presented at the second session of the Plenary of the Platform in the report on the prioritization of requests, inputs and suggestions put to the Platform (IPBES/2/3, annex) and the note by the secretariat on supporting documentation on the prioritization of requests, inputs and suggestions put to the Platform (IPBES/2/INF/9). Not all the requests received were prioritized by the Plenary and included as specific deliverables in the Platform's work programme for 2014–2018; however, these reports still form the basis for further consideration in the scoping and development of the regional and global assessments.

22. Given that the secretariats of the Convention and the Platform are co-located at the United Nations campus in Bonn, the Convention secretariat has been providing administrative support to the Platform's secretariat as an interim measure pending the recruitment of the full complement of its staff.

**Resolution 10.21. Synergies and partnerships**

23. In its resolution 10.6, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species called on the secretariat and UNEP to further identify possible regional, multilateral and bilateral opportunities for collaboration and to involve relevant stakeholders, including other multilateral environmental agreements and the private sector, in order to secure funding and develop further capacity-building initiatives in line with resolution 10.21 on synergies and partnerships.

24. UNEP has responded to resolution 10.21 through the implementation of its project on improving the effectiveness of and cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions and exploring opportunities for further synergies, funded by the Governments of Finland and Switzerland, and by the European Union. The objective of the project is to identify opportunities and options for enhancing cooperation between UNEP, other host institutions and the secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions in working towards the efficient and effective implementation of biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements, drawing upon expertise and experiences at the national, regional and international levels, and to assist in exploring opportunities for further synergies in the administrative functions of the multilateral environmental agreements administered by UNEP. It is envisaged that guidance will be developed on how to enhance the effective and synergistic implementation of multilateral environmental agreements at the national and regional levels through improved collaboration and coordination among national focal points of different multilateral environmental agreements, including for the mobilization of financial resources. Key outputs of the project will include a sourcebook of opportunities for enhancing cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions at the national and regional levels, which will be presented and discussed at a workshop and side event at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity as well as at a side event at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species, and options for enhanced cooperation and synergies at the global level, which will form the basis for recommendations from the Executive Director of UNEP to the Environment Assembly.

25. UNEP-WCMC has continued to provide support to the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership and to facilitate its monitoring of progress towards the achievement of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Two technical meetings of the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership were convened in 2012–2014. During this period the Partnership’s website was restructured and re-launched in order to provide a simple toolkit of resources for national indicator development, including indicators for NBSAPs. The toolkit includes a biodiversity indicator forum, which allows practitioners to connect with one another, seek support and share experiences and lessons learned, and online learning modules to support practitioners in developing appropriate indicators. Guidance on multilateral environmental agreement synergies and NBSAP revision will be published at the end of 2014.

26. Through biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreement focal points, UNEP regional offices have actively supported the implementation of resolution 10.21 by strengthening synergies and collaboration with the Convention secretariat during the triennium 2012–2014.

27. Through the Regional Office for Africa, UNEP organized and conducted two regional capacity development workshops on synergies among biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements through the updating of NBSAPs for eight francophone African countries. The first of the two workshops was held in Douala, Cameroon, in June 2013. The follow-up workshop, which was held in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire, in October 2013, focused on capacity-building in the development of national biodiversity indicators for the purpose of updating NBSAPs. The workshops, which were held in collaboration with UNEP-WCMC, provided an opportunity to enhance national and regional capacity for participating countries to develop and use biodiversity indicators as part of the current revision of NBSAPs, in line with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020. Both workshops brought together senior government officials who are involved in the updating of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans and gave the participants opportunity to learn a number of new techniques essential to the NBSAPs updating process. As a result of the workshops, a number of countries reported the development of national targets and indicators in line with the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. National focal points also reported having undertaken activities to promote synergies among biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements in their respective countries.

28. In addition, the UNEP Regional Office for West Asia coordinated the revision process of the United Arab Emirates’ NBSAP, integrating in a coherent manner the objectives of the Convention on Migratory Species, the Ramsar Convention and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

29. UNEP has provided support to the Convention on Migratory Species secretariat in the accession of potential new parties to the Convention from the Asia-Pacific region, including by providing briefings thereon to interested Governments at various meetings. One of the objectives of the above-mentioned Pacific regional preparatory meeting for the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species, which was attended by several non-parties from the Pacific region, was also to encourage new parties to ratify the Convention. UNEP will continue to support such ongoing efforts.

30. The Regional Office for West Asia provided support for the meeting on the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks, held in Dubai in February 2014, including by identifying related synergies with CITES new appendix II listings of sharks. UNEP also promoted the CITES partnership with the European Union and FAO, providing guidance for the implementation of new national fisheries policies and regulations that respect new CITES measures with regard to five species of sharks for the prevention of wildlife trafficking of sharks in the Middle East and North Africa regions. As a result, parties to the Convention were informed about the new CITES measures regarding five species of sharks under appendix II.

31. The Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific collaborated closely with the Convention secretariat’s team, based in Bangkok, on work related to the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia, specifically in the organization of the seventh meeting of the Signatory States, held in Bonn, Germany from 8 to 11 September 2014. The work included

following up with Signatory States in the light of their submissions of national reports and site network nominations as well as preparatory work for the seventh meeting.

32. The Regional Office for West Asia has provided support to the Convention secretariat and collaborated closely with the UNEP Convention on Migratory Species Abu Dhabi office, United Arab Emirates, in advancing the migratory species agenda in West Asia and promoting synergies with biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements and programmes. Activities have involved the officers responsible for the United Arab Emirates' NBSAP project and included Ramsar Convention site activities, among other things.

33. In support of the implementation of resolution 10.21, the Regional Office for West Asia took part in the Saker Falcon Task Force action planning work and participated in their workshops and teleconferences providing regional information on networks, policies and regional supporting mechanisms in the stocktaking phase. The Saker Falcon Falco Cherrug Global Action Plan (UNEP/CMS/COP11/DOC.23.1.5.1) integrates regional policies, mechanisms and programmes for implementation.

34. The Regional Office for West Asia also collaborated with the Convention on Migratory Species secretariat coordinator in Abu Dhabi for the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Dugongs and their Habitats throughout their Range and is coordinating activities and concepts under a GEF project on dugong and sea grass conservation. In collaboration with the Convention on Migratory Species office in Abu Dhabi, the Regional Office for West Asia is planning to provide support for the partial implementation of the first phase of the project. The concepts are being used to raise funding from partners.

35. In addition, the Regional Office for West Asia promoted regional policy mechanisms and biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreement programmes in the Gulf to provide support for the marine turtles monitoring project implemented by the Emirates Wildlife Society-World Wildlife Fund for Nature in the Gulf region. As a result, the migratory paths of marine turtles were identified showing new migration habits owing to the effects of climate change, and that information was shared with policymakers in the region.

36. Furthermore, the UNEP Regional Office for Europe provided financial support to the Convention secretariat for a meeting on the way forward for the Central Asian flyway legal framework and to assist with the development of the Arctic Species Trend Index for the conservation of Arctic flora and fauna.

37. UNEP has continued to provide support for taxonomic capacity and the implementation of the Global Taxonomy Initiative, including by providing technical input to the Convention's Ad Hoc Meeting on Harmonization of Bird Taxonomy, and the updating of information on Species+ to assist with the use of nomenclature for the implementation of CITES and the Convention on Migratory Species.

#### **Resolution 10.22. Wildlife disease and migratory species**

38. Through the Great Apes Survival Partnership (GRASP), in support of resolution 10.22, UNEP is currently formulating its approach to dealing with the Ebola crisis. The recent outbreak of Ebola in West Africa, which has slowly spread towards Central Africa, is relevant to GRASP in the context of the Convention's Agreement on the Conservation of Gorillas and their Habitats. Gorillas occur in two countries already hit by Ebola – the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Nigeria – and both of these gorilla populations are considered “migratory”.

39. In addition, through GRASP, UNEP has also held preliminary discussions with the Convention secretariat towards collaborating more closely with the Agreement on the Conservation of Gorillas and their Habitats, which has largely fallen dormant owing to a lack of funding and leadership. GRASP and the Convention are discussing ways to streamline their programmes of work and to use the Convention's legal agreement to support GRASP activities.



#### **Resolution 10.24. Further steps to abate underwater noise pollution for the protection of cetaceans and other migratory species**

40. Recognizing that marine spatial planning is a useful tool for applying the ecosystem approach, including addressing multiple management objectives, such as mitigating the negative impacts of underwater noise from shipping or offshore energy, and further considering the challenges associated with the implementation of marine spatial planning, UNEP, in collaboration with the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel of GEF and other partners, has undertaken a study to compile and synthesize practical experiences on marine spatial planning. Key findings are presented in the report entitled “Marine spatial planning in practice: transitioning from planning to implementation”, providing lessons and guidance on key enabling conditions for planning and implementation in different contexts. It further identifies gaps and work required towards the development of practical guidance on marine spatial planning, which is under preparation, including work by UNEP in collaboration with the Convention on Biological Diversity, the German Agency for International Cooperation (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)) and other partners in the development of a web-based information-sharing system linking existing information sources on marine spatial planning.

41. Moreover, UNEP, in close collaboration with the Caribbean Environment Programme Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Caribbean Region Regional Activity Centre (SPAW-RAC) and a range of parties, under the auspices of the UNEP-Spain LifeWeb initiative, have developed broad-scale marine spatial planning, including for transboundary management of marine mammal corridors in the Eastern Caribbean. This planning includes a compilation of layers of data and maps on marine mammal distribution and the impacts on such mammals from human activities, such as underwater noise from shipping (including cruise tourism), and the development of scenarios for the transboundary management of marine mammal corridors and possible zoning of protected areas. Technical assistance and learning from this initiative is readily available to interested parties for the purpose of reducing the impacts of underwater noise from maritime activities on marine mammals and assisting future capacity-building to advance the practical application of broad-scale area-based planning tools and management measures to address the impacts of underwater noise on sensitive species.

#### **New initiative on habitat connectivity and conservation areas relevant to the work of the Convention on Migratory Species**

42. The UNEP Division of Environmental Policy Implementation is initiating a new project on strengthening biodiversity conservation at a landscape scale. A major challenge to be addressed by the project is that land allocation at multiple scales is generally undertaken without giving due consideration to biodiversity and its requirements. The objective of this project is to develop new data, tools and analyses to support the ecosystem management approach and the development of green economy national land use planning, which will allow a more holistic input to countries that are aiming to achieve biodiversity conservation from the national to the landscape scales. In addition, this project will enable countries to better achieve and report upon targets 5, 11 and 15 of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and to start addressing the climate change adaptation needs proposed in the *Fifth Assessment Report* of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the policy frameworks proposed under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

### **III. Administrative support to the Convention**

#### **A. Delegation of authority**

43. In 2009, the Executive Director of UNEP developed a procedure for delegating authority for all UNEP-administered multilateral environmental agreement secretariats, with the aim of enabling them to undertake and implement activities as efficiently and effectively as possible without referring to UNEP headquarters on routine administrative matters. The procedure has generic features that are adapted to each secretariat’s needs.

44. Following the recruitment of Mr. Bradnee Chambers as the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Migratory Species, a new delegation of authority between the Executive Director of UNEP and the Executive

Secretary of the Convention, together with the executive secretaries of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds and the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats, where indicated, was signed in September 2013. The newly signed delegation of authority supersedes previous delegations of authority from the Executive Director.

45. The delegation of authority describes the authority and responsibilities of the Executive Secretary in relation to programme management linked to the implementation of the programme of work approved by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, management of the budget approved by the Conference of the Parties and other budgetary matters, including the convention allotment from the UNEP special account for programme support costs. The delegation also clarifies the authority of the Executive Secretary in terms of the management of human resources as well as financial and physical resources.

46. The Executive Secretary is accountable to the Executive Director of UNEP for the management of the Convention secretariat and must ensure the timely initiation of management actions in accordance with the programme of work and budgets approved by the Conference of the Parties in line with the mandatory United Nations rules applicable to UNEP. All clauses pertaining to the implementation of the delegation of authority have been adhered to since its signature.

## **B. Support provided to the Convention from programme support costs**

47. Under the current arrangement, the secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species receives 67 per cent of the programme support costs generated by the previous year's delivery of the programme of work against its respective trust funds. In the biennium 2012–2013, the total programme support costs generated totalled \$1,727,058, 67 per cent of which amounts to \$1,157,129. Total expenditures incurred during the period were \$1,274,208 in excess of income. These covered the cost of the following administrative staff directly assigned to the Convention secretariat: the Administrative and Finance Officer (P-4), two Finance Assistants (G-5 and G-6) and two Administrative Assistants (G-5), all based in Bonn, Germany, in addition to a Finance Assistant (G-6) based in Bangkok and an Administrative Assistant (G-6) based in Abu Dhabi. The secretariat and UNEP are working together to realign the administrative costs, which were accepted at the time for the purpose of business continuity with a share of the programme support costs due to the Convention. The budget and projected costs for 2014 exceeded their available share of programme support costs income generated in 2013. The remaining 33 per cent of the programme support costs is for use by UNEP to cover its central administrative functions in support of the Convention secretariat. The annex to the present report provides further details in that regard.

48. With the United Nations system-wide transition from the United Nations System Accounting Standards (UNSAS) to the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), which commenced on 1 January 2014, the budgeting and bookkeeping methods of the United Nations Secretariat will be much more rigorous. From 2014 on, audited financial statements will be required annually. Although IPSAS has far more stringent conditions on consolidation than UNSAS, UNEP will continue to include the Convention trust funds in its financial statements and issue separate reports so that the secretariat can report adequately to the parties.

49. UNEP is providing support to the Convention in its transition to IPSAS and the introduction of the United Nations Secretariat's new enterprise resource planning solution, "Umoja", in the following ways:

(a) In close collaboration with the United Nations Office at Nairobi and the United Nations Board of Auditors, ensuring financial statements are IPSAS-compliant with effect from 2014;

(b) Physical inspection and verification of assets such that correct and accurate records are available in an assets register for strengthened control over assets and to ensure that the IPSAS opening balances are correct, including for the purpose of future financial reporting;

(c) Keeping the Convention secretariat informed of developments concerning Umoja (newsletters, briefings, etc.) on a regular basis;

(d) Training for Convention secretariat staff on the two initiatives;

(e) Ensuring the validity and accuracy of all accounts data registered in the Integrated Management Information System and clean-up of pending accounting actions such that the system is ready for a smooth transition to Umoja;

(f) Prompt communication of all instructions received from the Umoja deployment team in New York to relevant administrative and fund staff and regular follow-up such that any action required is undertaken in a timely manner;

(g) Acting as a liaison between the Convention secretariat and United Nations Headquarters in New York and ensuring that queries raised are addressed.

50. In addition to the above, during the current triennium, UNEP organized and financed procurement and related training for Convention secretariat staff.

#### **D. Additional administrative matters that require the attention of the Conference of the Parties**

51. In its resolution 9.14, on financial and administrative matters and terms of reference for the administration of the Trust Fund for the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the Conference of the Parties agreed that all contributions to the Trust fund would be paid in euros. It should be noted, however, that UNEP records transactions in United States dollars in accordance with the procedures of the United Nations Secretariat, which also apply to the Convention secretariat. Official United Nations reporting is undertaken in United States dollars; any reporting in euros is unofficial and should be based on the United Nations rate of exchange, resulting in significantly increased transaction costs.

52. In accordance with financial regulation 2.2, the United Nations Office at Nairobi must continue to maintain UNEP accounts in United States dollars and issue financial reports and statements in that currency

53. In the light of the above, UNEP and the parties need to discuss the inconsistency between the resolution adopted by the Conference of the Parties and the above-mentioned rules and regulations. It is to be hoped that the resolution can be reviewed and amended in order to satisfy the Conference of the Parties and comply with the United Nations rules and regulations as applicable to UNEP.

54. Bearing in mind paragraph 89 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, “The future we want”, which, inter alia, calls for enhancing coordination and cooperation among multilateral environmental agreements as well as between those agreements and the United Nations system in the field, the Executive Director of UNEP presented a report on the relationship between UNEP and the multilateral environmental agreements (UNEP/EA.1/INF/8) to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its first session.

55. UNEP prepared the report in consultation with the secretariats of the following multilateral environmental agreements: CITES; the Convention on Migratory Species; Convention on Biological Diversity; Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer; Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer; Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal; Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade; Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants; Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention); Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention); Amended Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean (Nairobi Convention); and the Convention for Cooperation in the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Atlantic Coast of the West, Central and Southern Africa Region (Abidjan Convention).

56. In accordance with resolution 1/12 of the United Nations Environment Assembly, a final report will be submitted to the next session of the open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives, with a view to putting the issue before the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

57. In order to complement these efforts to strengthen the relationship between UNEP and the multilateral environmental agreements it administers, the Executive Director of UNEP established a task team comprising representatives of the secretariats of those agreements and the relevant offices of the UNEP secretariat. The task team commenced consultations at its first meeting, held on 3 February 2014, on the effectiveness of administrative arrangements and programmatic cooperation between them. The task team is chaired by the Deputy Executive Director and the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Migratory Species serves as Vice-Chair. Two working groups – one on administrative arrangements and the other on programmatic cooperation – have been established under the task team, and they are chaired by representatives of the secretariats of CITES and the Convention on Biological Diversity, respectively. Consultations on administrative arrangements and programmatic matters are currently under way through the two working groups. The task team held its third meeting on 8 September 2014 and updates were provided on the progress made in the two working groups. A full report by the two working groups is expected to be submitted to the task team in January 2015.

#### **E. Memorandum of understanding between the Standing Committee of the Convention on Migratory Species and the Executive Director of UNEP**

58. Recent internal audit recommendations have called for the further clarification of the relationship between UNEP and the multilateral environmental agreements for which it provides secretariat functions.

59. In addition, UNEP has found that certain decisions adopted by the conferences of the parties to conventions and other intersessional bodies of conventions have either contravened the United Nations rules and regulations or have prevented UNEP from carrying out its functions and mandate in relation to the conventions and their parties.

60. With the transition to a new accounting system, IPSAS, there will be more detailed reporting on financial matters among other changes and new demands.

61. At the fortieth meeting of the Standing Committee, held in November 2012, UNEP expressed a wish to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Standing Committee, in an arrangement similar to others already in place with the governing bodies of other multilateral environmental agreements. The proposal was welcomed and endorsed and the Standing Committee agreed that the groundwork for developing the memorandum of understanding should begin.

62. Two years into the process, a draft legal instrument has been developed, drafted in full consultation with the staff of the Convention secretariat, taking into account their views, comments and inputs.

63. The draft memorandum of understanding determines the working arrangements between UNEP and the secretariat, including areas such as the United Nations and the UNEP rules and regulations and their applicability to the operations of the secretariat, financial and budgetary matters, administrative support (including the programme support cost), secretariat staff (including the process for their recruitment), and the authority and accountability of the Executive Secretary through his delegation of authority from the Executive Director. It also highlights the need for consultations between the Standing Committee and the Executive Director of UNEP in certain areas of work, and mentions processes linked to programme and management review.

64. All parties have been afforded the opportunity to comment on the current version of the draft memorandum of understanding, and comments have been gathered by the secretariat and shared with UNEP. In that regard, comments on the draft memorandum of understanding have been submitted by Chile, Ecuador, New Zealand and the European Union. UNEP will review all the comments submitted, reflecting them in the draft memorandum of understanding. It is also critical that emerging issues, such as IPSAS and Umoja, the new United Nations central administration system designed to facilitate and streamline information within the United Nations system, are taken into account.

65. In the light of the continuing discussions by the task team on the multilateral environmental agreements and its forthcoming report, to be released by January 2015, as well as resolution 1/12 of the United Nations Environment Assembly, UNEP is not in a position to sign the draft memorandum of understanding at present.

66. The outcome of the above-mentioned processes and the report to be submitted to the Environment Assembly at its second session will determine – and have consequences for – the nature of the relationship between UNEP and the multilateral environmental agreements it administers. It is therefore crucial to put the development of the legal instrument on hold for the time being.

## Annex

### Programme support costs

Table 1  
Report on use of programme support costs  
(United States dollars)

<i>Fund</i>	<i>Expense category</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>Total</i>
AVL: General Trust Fund for voluntary contribution in respect of agreement on the conservation of African Eurasian migratory water birds (AEWA) <sup>a</sup>	Exchange loss	78 190	21 108	99 298
	Expenditures	439 956	274 989	714 945
	Programme support costs	57 496	39 841	97 336
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>575 642</b>	<b>335 937</b>	<b>911 579</b>
AWL - General Trust Fund for the African-Eurasian Waterbirds Agreement	Exchange loss	–	–	–
	Expenditures	1 113 916	961 795	2 075 710
	Programme support costs	144 707	125 038	269 745
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1 258 622</b>	<b>1 086 833</b>	<b>2 345 455</b>
BAL - General Trust Fund for the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltics and North Seas (ASCOBANS)	Exchange loss	11 836	(2 294)	9 541
	Expenditures	225 292	203 164	428 456
	Programme support costs	29 288	24 346	53 634
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>266 415</b>	<b>225 216</b>	<b>491 632</b>
BTL - General Trust Fund for the Conservation of European Bats (EUROBATS)	Exchange loss	58 914	8 432	67 346
	Expenditures	365 806	353 344	719 150
	Programme support costs	47 555	45 935	93 490
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>472 274</b>	<b>407 711</b>	<b>879 986</b>
MRL - Technical Cooperation Trust Fund on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South East Asia	Exchange loss	–	–	–
	Expenditures	271 425	202 639	474 065
	Programme support costs	35 285	26 343	61 628
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>306 711</b>	<b>228 982</b>	<b>535 693</b>
MSL - Trust Fund for the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals	Exchange loss	79 969	(5 160)	74 809
	Expenditures	2 033 603	2 698 257	4 731 860
	Programme support costs	264 368	350 687	615 055
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2 377 940</b>	<b>3 043 784</b>	<b>5 421 724</b>
MVL - Trust Fund for the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals	Exchange loss	112 456	45 732	158 188
	Expenditures	2 215 818	1 456 205	3 672 023
	Programme support costs	288 056	189 307	477 363
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2 616 330</b>	<b>1 691 244</b>	<b>4 307 574</b>
QFL - Support of the EUROBATS secretariat	Exchange loss	447	(42)	405
	Expenditures	41 684	46 717	88 401
	Programme support costs	5 419	6 073	11 492
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>47 550</b>	<b>52 748</b>	<b>100 298</b>
OVL - Support of the ASCOBANS	Exchange loss	3 514	(457)	3 056

<i>Fund</i>	<i>Expense category</i>	2012	2013	Total
secretariat	Expenditures	23 048	62 789	85 837
	Programme support costs	2 766	8 163	10 929
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>29 328</b>	<b>70 494</b>	<b>99 822</b>
QWL - Support of the Convention of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)	Exchange loss	(770)	3 152	2 382
	Expenditures	442 025	26 455	468 480
	Programme support costs	29 773	1 852	31 625
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>471 028</b>	<b>31 459</b>	<b>502 487</b>
SMU - Trust Fund to Support the Activities of the Secretariat of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks	Exchange loss	–	–	–
	Expenditures	–	36 650	36 650
	Programme support costs	–	4 761	4 761
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>41 411</b>	<b>41 411</b>
<b>Total by expense category</b>				
	Exchange loss	344 555	70 470	415 025
	Expenditures	7 172 572	6 323 005	13 495 577
	Programme support costs	904 713	822 345	1 727 058
		2012	2013	2014
67 per cent of programme support costs		<b>699 769</b>	675 565 <sup>c</sup>	582 690 <sup>c</sup>
Expenditures		630 361	643 847	730 000 <sup>b</sup>
Balance		<b>69 408</b>	<b>32 719</b>	<b>(147 310)</b>

<sup>a</sup> Includes accounting adjustment

<sup>b</sup> Projection

<sup>c</sup> Programme support costs of previous year plus carryover from year before

Table 2  
**Staffing**

<i>Functional titles</i>	<i>Staff name</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>Location</i>	2014		
				<i>2014 posts budget</i>	<i>non-posts budget</i>	<i>2014 total budget</i>
Administrative Officer	Bruce Noronha	P-4	Bonn, Germany	195 000	–	195 000
Finance Assistant	Enkhtuya Sereenen	G-6	Bonn, Germany	110 300	–	110 300
Administrative Assistant	Henning Lilge	G-5	Bonn, Germany	110 300	–	110 300
Administrative Assistant	Mina Jeanbeth	G-5	Bonn, Germany	110 300	–	110 300
Finance Assistant	Hillary Sang	G-6	Bonn, Germany	110 300	–	110 300
Team Assistant	Supitchakuk Patcharin	G-6	Bangkok	24 500	–	24 500
Administrative Assistant	Rima AlMubarak AlTayeb	G-6	Bahrain, Abu Dhabi	70 000	–	70 000
			<b>Total</b>	<b>730 700</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>730 700</b>

### **Use of programme support cost income**

Programme support cost revenue is essential to the proper funding of support services and to ensuring that funds are used for the purposes for which they were provided. In this regard, the deployment of programme support costs within the Convention secretariat must address the operational, financial, human and other resources management challenges associated with extrabudgetary funding. In accordance with existing policy, programme support costs income must be used in areas where a relationship exists between the supporting activity concerned and the activities that generated the programme support cost revenue. Currently the programme support costs generated from the Convention on Migratory Species is split, with 67 per cent being used to support the cost of staff and 33 per cent remaining with UNEP to fund indirect costs. In accordance with guidance received from the office of the United Nations Controller, programme support cost resources may be used to finance indirect costs in the following categories:

- **Central administration (including the United Nations Office at Nairobi):** staff in the human, financial, physical and information and communication technology resources management areas that support operations, programmes and projects financed from extrabudgetary contributions; rent, maintenance, operating expenses, furniture and equipment relating to these staff.
  - **Central programme and departmental administration:** staff in the human, financial, physical and information and communication technology resources management areas that support operations, programmes and projects financed from extrabudgetary contributions; rent, maintenance, operating expenses, furniture and equipment relating to these staff.
  - **Other services provided internally and externally:** information technology, legal, security and oversight services (the Office of Internal Oversight Services and the Board of Auditors); United Nations system-wide initiatives (e.g., Umoja and IPSAS) and centrally managed charges.
  - **Programme and departmental programme services:** central planning, resource mobilization, donor relations, monitoring, evaluation, reporting and programme development.
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