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Agenda Item 24.1.3

**REPORT OF THE
2nd MEETING OF THE CMS PREVENTING POISONING WORKING GROUP**
(Prepared by the Secretariat)

Summary:

The CMS Preventing Poisoning Working Group, an inter-sessional working group under the Scientific Council, held its 2nd Meeting in Toledo, Spain, from 19 to 21 February 2017. At this meeting, the working group agreed on a Programme of Work for the period 2017 to 2020 and the establishment of a Lead Task Force.

The related resolution and draft decisions are available in UNEP/CMS/COP12/Doc.24.1.3.

REPORT OF THE 2nd MEETING OF THE CMS PREVENTING POISONING WORKING GROUP

The 2nd Meeting of the CMS Preventing Poisoning Working Group (PPWG) took place in the Castillo de San Servando in the city of Toledo, Spain, from 19 to 21 February 2017, back to back with the Overarching Workshop to Develop a Multi-species Action Plan to Conserve African-Eurasian Vultures (Vulture MsAP; 16 to 19 February 2017). Both meetings were organized by the Spanish Ornithological Society (SEO), the BirdLife International partner organization in Spain, and generously supported by the Regional Government of Castilla-La Mancha and the Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MOU in Abu Dhabi.

List of participants: see Annex 1 of this document.

Day 1: Field trip

1. On the first day of the meeting, the participants had the opportunity to visit Cabañeros National Park, an area of Mediterranean forest and open savannah (“dehesas”), and to observe several species of vultures, eagles and other birds.

Day 2: Working Session at San Servando Castle, Toledo

Session 1.

Agenda Item 1.0: Welcoming Remarks

2. Mr Borja Heredia, Head of the Avian Unit of the CMS Secretariat, opened the Meeting welcoming participants at the venue San Servando Castle in Toledo. He gave the floor to Mr Agapito Portillo, Vice Councillor for Environment of the Regional Government of Castilla-La Mancha.

3. Mr Portillo welcomed the participants of the meeting to Toledo. He raised the significance of poisoning as a serious threat to wildlife. He said that the Region of Castilla-La Mancha was of high importance particularly for birds of prey, and that poisoning was prohibited by law. There was also an adaptation of the environmental legislation and the consideration of poisoning in the hunting law. Himself had been much involved in the initiative for a strategy against illegal wildlife poisoning. In the end of his speech, Mr Portillo underlined the importance of the conservation of natural resources and wished that the CMS work would significantly contribute to the eradication of illegal poisoning.

4. Mr Heredia expressed again his thanks to the Vice Councillor for Environment for his welcoming address and for the generous support of the Regional Government which had made this meeting possible.

Agenda item 2.0: Introductory remarks from the CMS Secretariat

5. Mr Heredia made comments on the PPWG and the general organization and procedure of the meeting.

Agenda item 3.0: Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair

6. Mr Heredia announced that a Chair and a Vice Chair would be appointed for the procedure of the meeting. He proposed Ms Beatriz Arroyo as the Chair and Mr Mohammad Asghari Tabari as Vice Chair. There were no objections to this proposal, and the Chair and the Vice Chair were elected accordingly.

Agenda item 4.0: Introduction of participants; adoption of agenda and meeting schedule

7. The Chair Ms Beatriz Arroyo introduced herself and asked all participants for a short introduction of each of them. Then she presented the main items of the agenda, and gave the floor back to Mr Heredia.

Agenda item 5.0: Workshop outline and modus operandi

8. Mr Heredia explained details of the workshop procedure, particularly with regard to the envisaged work in breakout groups to discuss specific issues of poisoning of migratory birds as part of the development of a Programme of Work (POW) on poisoning

Session 2.*Agenda item 6.0: Updates from working group members*

(details of the presentations reported below are included in the electronic presentation files which were circulated to all members of the working group for internal use after the meeting).

9. The session was opened by a presentation given by Mr Nick P. Williams, Programme Officer of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors MOU). Mr Williams conveyed a message from the Overarching Workshop to Develop a Multi-species Action Plan to Conserve African-Eurasian Vultures (Vulture MsAP), which had taken place immediately before the meeting of the PPWG. He highlighted CMS Resolution 11.14 as a basis for the development of an MsAP and presented its organizational framework, consisting of the Vulture MsAP Working Group (VWG), a Steering Group, three regional coordinators and the process of four regional workshops (Dakar, Monfrague, Mumbai and Sharjah) and one overarching workshop in Toledo.

10. Mr Williams emphasized that poisoning was the global threat with the most impact on vultures, mainly driven by human-wildlife conflict. It included unintentional poisoning through baits set for predator control, by non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), by lead ammunition, and intentional poisoning resulting from traditional belief-use and sentinel poisoning related to poaching of elephants and other big game (e.g. in cases when wheeling of vultures indicated poaching incidents, several hundred birds died from only one poisoned carcass). Regionally, habitat loss (in Northern Africa) and exposure to veterinary pharmaceuticals such as diclofenac (South Asia) represented major threats.

11. The main goal of the Vulture MsAP was the reduction of mortality of vultures resulting from the sources of poisoning mentioned, as Mr Williams explained. He highlighted the linkages between the framework of the Vulture MsAP and the PPWG, based on the fact that prevention of poisoning was the highest priority. The aim should be to complement the activities, identify gaps and avoid duplication of actions. He stated that the framework of actions reflected CMS Resolution 11.15 on poisoning, and sought to reflect the Vulture MsAP actions in the PPWG Programme of Work (POW). The Vulture MsAP would be willing to lead on certain actions. Synergies had already begun with the two back-to-back meetings. He suggested a cross representation in each regional group structure. It would be important to join forces in non-CMS Parties and thus to promote awareness raising. He announced a public consultation on the Vulture MsAP in two to three weeks.

12. Mr. Tim Snow, Wildlife Poisoning Prevention and Conflict Resolution South Africa, suggested the participation of the Signatory Countries of the African Convention of Nature and Natural Resources in the process of the Vulture MsAP. Mr Williams said that this was indeed a very valuable suggestion and thanked him for the proposal.

13. Afterwards, Mr Mahdavi, University of Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran gave his presentation titled "Preventing wildlife poisoning: a case study from Iran and applicable international vs national regulatory issues". He based his experience on 45 years of research on pesticides. He stated that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 6 and 12 were the most related to preventing poisoning, and drew a distinction between natural (by bioactive plant compounds) as opposed to man-made poisoning (since industrialization).

14. Regarding the global use of pesticides in agriculture, he emphasized that less than 10,000 insect species were considered as being pests. He stated that in Iran, aldicarb (carbamate; LD50=2mg/kg; addition by T. Snow: Acute oral (rat) 0.93mg/kg, male rabbits percutaneous 20mg/kg; Bobwhite quail 71mg/kg in diet reference: Tomlin C, 1994, Teh Pesticide Handbook; British Crop Protection Council, Surrey UK) was still heavily in use, causing poisoning of wetlands, which had become hotspots for bird poisoning. He namely mentioned the region of Fereydun Kenar as an area where poisoning and illegal killing of birds was particularly acute. He acknowledged the initiative of Rachel Carson and her research on poisoning of wetlands in this context. As an alternative to synthetic pesticides, he highlighted the Neem tree, *Azadirachta indica*, in the Persian Gulf as a natural pesticidal plant

15. For Iran, Mr Mahdavi explained that the lack of infrastructure was the crucial reason for the lack of enforcement of existing legislation. Smuggling of banned pesticides was a severe issue. Rodenticides were liberally used without regulation, and best practice guidelines were not followed, and programme baiting not applied. In general, scientific results were available, but implementation into practice was mostly lacking.

16. With regard to poison-baits, he said that in most cases, non-target species were affected. There were no veterinary toxicology diagnostic facilities available in Iran. Law enforcement could be risky, and 115 environmental guards had been killed by criminals over the last 40 years.

17. Regarding veterinary pharmaceuticals, Mr Mahdavi stated that diclofenac was basically available to everybody, as it could be purchased in pharmacies and often misused, although it was banned.

18. With regard to pollution from lead ammunition he said that there were no regulations in Iran. Only recently, hunting had been temporarily banned due to avian influenza outbreaks. He highlighted the global alliance on lead pollution as an outcome of UNEA2.

19. The Chair added that also in Europe, the situation regarding the use of rodenticides harmful to birds was still far from being solved.

20. In the following talk, Mr Rubén Moreno-Opo, of the Ministry of Environment, Spain, presented the “Spanish Strategy against the use of poison-baits. Successes and challenges”. He explained the national strategy had been developed in consultation with the regions and had been approved by the National Commission for Nature Protection. Thereafter several regions had developed their own strategies.

21. He said that most cases of poisoning recorded affected vultures, Spanish Imperial Eagle and Red Kite populations. The lack of a coordinated national database was problematic, but databases of NGOs existed. Since 1990, more than 6,300 fatalities had been recorded (1,656 Griffon Vultures, 1,187 Red Kites and a number of other species). He explained that human-predator conflict, lack of sustainable management, traditional impunity of poachers, former insufficiency at judiciary level and political commitment were the main reasons for bird poisoning. The main objectives of the strategy were the improvement of knowledge, deterrence of criminals and prosecution of crime. With regard to these priority lines, Mr. Moreno-Opo illustrated the large variety of specific implementation measures. In this connection, he highlighted the efforts made by the Autonomous Regions in Spain over the last 20 years by establishing legally binding regional strategies, as well as by the patrols of SEPRONA (Guardia Civil) and the key role of conservation NGOs within the ANTIDOTO-Program and the *Life+VENENO* Projects. He also described the particularly positive roles of other stakeholders such as hunters and farmers, jurisdiction and coordination by the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Nutrition and Environment.

22. The assessment had shown positive effects of the programme on vultures, eagles and Brown Bears, while there were no changes in wolf populations, and further decline of Red Kite populations.

23. Mr Moreno-Opo summarized the still existing challenges in inter-agency coordination, protocol optimization, enforcement regarding the accessibility of toxins, awareness raising, reconciling human-wildlife conflict and judiciary involvement.

24. Mr David Stroud, UK, asked about the decline of numbers, and the possible influence of reporting efforts in recent years on the structure of data. Mr Moreno-Opo responded that there was a potential influence from that because with the beginning of the economic crisis less money had been available for controls and surveillance. He repeated that there was still a lack of coordination among the existing databases.

25. Mr Rafael Mateo, University of Castilla-La Mancha, asked about the role of poisoning for livestock protection, and about diclofenac. Mr Moreno-Opo responded that farmers were aware of the risk of diclofenac, and for the moment there were no incidents and no negative effects on vulture populations recorded.

26. Mr. David de la Bodega (SEO/BirdLife Spain) presented the “ANTIDOTO Program, a model of NGO cooperation to combat wildlife poisoning”. He stated that poisoning was one of the most serious threats to wildlife. He illustrated the ANTIDOTO alliance of Spanish environmental

and conservation NGOs, and the role of SEO/BirdLife, being one of the most influential NGOs of the country with 12,000 members and 9 Regional Offices throughout the national territory.

27. Mr de la Bodega described the historical background of wildlife poisoning in Spain, with “poisoners” being professionals, whose work had been socially and legally recognized to control predators until 1983. He stated that 18,503 cases had been reported between 1992 and 2013, but that the actual figure might be ten times higher. He stated that predator control in hunting estates was the main source of poisoning of wildlife together with its use for the protection of livestock.

28. He described the start of the ANTIDOTO Program in 1997, in which 10 NGOs were involved. Their role was to prevent and refine knowledge on the impact of environmental wildlife crime, disseminate the consequences, ensure law enforcement, do political lobby and implementation. SEO/BirdLife, as one of the organizations of the ANTIDOTO Program, has launched several initiatives to fight against poisoning. One of these initiatives has been *Life+VENENO*, coordinated by the organization between 2010 and 2015. This initiative was supported by the EU LIFE Program, the Spanish Government and several Regional Governments. Major achievements of *Life+VENENO* included a protocol on how to collect samples correctly and the chain of custody, promoting and participating in drafting the National Strategy against the illegal use of poison baits in the environment and in the establishment of the Phone SOS VENENO for reporting poisoning incidents. One particular initiative targeted the massive use of rodenticides, e.g. against voles in order to achieve a ban of the most dangerous substances. Significant results of *Life+VENENO* included a reduction of impunity and an increase in legal actions, better supply of equipment for enforcement officers, the establishment of alternatives to poison on croplands e.g. on Tenerife Island (water supply for lizards and birds to prevent damage to crops) and better livestock predation monitoring on Fuerteventura of the use of measures to prevent predation.

29. Mr de la Bodega raised the importance of the fight against wildlife poisoning on the international level. In this respect, he highlighted CMS initiatives, such as the meetings of the PPWG, and of the European Network against Environmental Crime (ENEC), launched by SEO/BirdLife and the RSPB, which developed a EU Action Plan to Prevent Illegal poisoning of Wildlife. In this connection, he reported on an ENEC study on the degree of implementation of EU Directive 2008/99/EC on environmental crime, revealing a lack of alignment of penalties in the EU.

30. Mr David Scallan, Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation in the EU (FACE), asked to what extent the reduction of illegal poisoning had succeeded, and what evidence supported the statement regarding the major role of hunting in wildlife poisoning. Mr de la Bodega responded that based on the report, 65 per cent of poisoning had been revealed to be related to hunters and hunting ground managers. The situation had been improving, but there was a lack of toxicological analyses in some regions, and in consequence, proof had been lacking in many incidents.

31. Ms Arroyo commented that a correlational analysis had shown that the highest number of poisoning incidents in Spain had been recorded in areas where small game species are hunted rather than in livestock areas. Prevailing legal methods of predator control have been described as “not useful” by some game managers, and this may have led to the use of illegal methods.

32. Mr Luis Fernando Solanas Almalé, SEPRONA, Guardia Civil Spain, commented that the most efficient way to fight poisoning was to combat organized crime. Police methods should be applicable, such as DNA analysis, and better data exchange was highly needed.

33. Mr Rhys Green, Cambridge University, UK, commented that in the UK, the proportion of cases going into laboratories that was related to poisoning was recorded, as an indirect measurement for evaluating the impact of poisoning.

34. Mr Jovan Andevski, Vulture Conservation Foundation (VCF), commented that the anti-poisoning work in Spain was impressive, and that this should be adopted by other countries.

35. Mr Mohammed Shobrak, Taif University, Saudi Arabia, asked if any effect to humans from poison baits was reported. In that case, these data should be used for awareness-raising. Mr de la Bodega responded that two cases had become known in Spain in the last years.

36. Mr Snow mentioned the problem with aldicarb generics from China. Mr de la Bodega mentioned that in Spain, it was still easy to buy aldicarb via the internet.

Agenda item 7.0: Review of progress in the implementation of the poisoning guidelines: results of the questionnaire

37. Mr Tilman Schneider, Associate Programme Officer at the CMS Secretariat, presented the results of the questionnaire which had been sent out to the members of the PPWG for consultation on the progress of the implementation of the CMS Guidelines to Prevent the Risk of Poisoning to Migratory Birds in November 2016. Based on the ten reports received, it became apparent that the implementation progress regarding the prevention of poisoning from most of the sources had been small (details are provided in the meeting document UNEP/CMS/PPWG2/Doc.2).

38. Mr Schneider also illustrated the comments on the areas of most inadequate implementation as reported by the PPWG members and the suggestions from the experts on how to improve the questionnaire for the purpose of government consultations.

Agenda item 8.0: Plenary discussion: agreement on a reporting mechanism within the working group and the format and content of the questionnaire

39. Mr Stroud commented that it was most important to ask for the status of national reports under the obligations of Parties under CMS. He emphasized that it was crucial to assess how many data actually existed and to ensure that the status of data among countries was comparable.

40. Mr Mahdavi mentioned that with regard to pesticides, including acaricides and nematicides, their licensing should be taken into account.

41. Regarding the improvement of the reporting, Ms Nicola Crockford, RSPB/BirdLife International suggested to hold the discussion on the POW first and then on the strategy of reporting.

42. Mr Andevski commented that more precise questions would be needed, and product names should be included for better identification.

43. Mr Snow commented that a stronger focus on hotspots would be helpful.

44. Ms Claire Mirande, International Crane Foundation (ICF), mentioned that it would be helpful to test the level of information of governments.

Session 3.

Agenda item 9.0: Introduction to the working group's Programme of Work (POW): agreement on the POW's template

45. Mr Heredia introduced to the template of the POW, which was used as the basis for the work in breakout groups afterwards. The breakout groups (BGs) were established and discussed the poisoning issues in the following constellation:

BG1: insecticides and rodenticides (Facilitator Mr Olivier Biber; Rapporteur and Note taker: Ms Nicola Crockford.)

BG2: poison bait and veterinary drugs (Facilitator and Rapporteur: Mr Jovan Andevski; Note taker: Rubén Moreno-Opo)

BG3: lead (Facilitator: Beatriz Arroyo; Rapporteur and Note taker: David Stroud)

46. The outputs of the breakout groups were added to the POW template provided by the CMS Secretariat.

Session 4.

Agenda item 10.0: Continuation of breakout groups

47. See procedure under 45 and 46

Agenda item 11.0: Plenary discussion: feedback from the breakout groups and adoption of the POW

48. The Rapporteurs of the BGs reported on the outputs of the group work. The Rapporteur of the BG, Mr Stroud said that the BG on lead had not been able to fill in the template and would like to provide a more elaborated draft the following day. All participants agreed to that proposal. Important actions highlighted during the BG work were

-for BG1: A desk study should be conducted to list substances of high risk to birds in each region, using the same methodology; the Rotterdam Convention could assist in developing appropriate criteria; enforcement needed to be improved; promotion of a global harmonization system; promotion of integrated pest management, biological control and organic farming; mapping of pesticide use against vulnerable bird populations/communities; identification of connections of wetlands with rice paddies; identification of hotspots; communication, education and awareness programmes; green market for pesticides.

-for BG2: Mr José Tavares, VCF, mentioned that a review of legislation was missing, which would show the legal status of toxic compounds; Ms Mirande mentioned that poison was also used to kill cranes; Ms Arroyo added that it was crucial to minimize the human-wildlife conflict.

-for BG3: There was the need for a Task Force (TF) on lead to push the issue forward and maintain the current momentum; it would be important to match the POW with the terms of reference (TOR) of the Lead TF; lead was not seen as priority by national governments; it was crucial to understand the barriers for a change and identify appropriate stakeholders to effectively initiate a transition. The Guidelines needed to be translated into actions; a report should be

submitted to the Scientific Council; risk assessment should be promoted; resource mobilization to be improved; fish-eating waterbirds should be considered more specifically; translation of the Guidelines (by volunteers if necessary) in other languages would be helpful for dissemination; the Guidelines were already available in English, French and Spanish; regional workshops should be envisaged; a website for evidence, policy and practical resources would be useful.

Day 3: Working Session at San Servando Castle, Toledo

Session 5.

Agenda item 12.0: Presentation by Mr Rafael Mateo (IREC). "Incidence of lead poisoning in wild birds and regulations adopted on the use of lead ammunition"

(details can be found in the circulated PDF-version of the presentation)

49. In his presentation, Mr Mateo reported that lead shot was the most important cause for lead poisoning of waterbirds. Lead entered the birds' system either through ingestion directly from the environment or from pellets embedded in the bodies after being injured from shooting.

50. He showed that in Spain, three large areas had been identified with more than 300 lead shot pellets per square meter, but in other parts of Europe, contamination between 50 and 300 shots per m² had been recorded as well. Mallard, Common Pochard and Pintail were the most affected species. He displayed a graph showing that species with the highest prevalence of lead shot showed the strongest negative population trends. Red-Breasted Goose was less affected. Whooper Swan had shown 10-45 per cent prevalence of lead poisoning; Greater Flamingo 24 per cent, for example.

51. Upland bird species were less affected than waterbirds. In upland hunting areas for Red-legged Partridge, 7.4 shots per m² and for Common Pheasant 0.46 shots per m² had been found. However, in the U.S., Chukar Partridge was relatively strongly affected (9.3 per cent lead shot prevalence).

52. In Steller's Sea Eagle and White-tailed Eagle, lead poisoning resulted mainly from the animals feeding on carcasses contaminated with lead shot and bullet fragments (e.g. Greylag Goose 44.4-65.3 per cent prevalence). In White-tailed Eagle in Germany, 18-28 per cent of mortality was due to lead poisoning.

53. Mr Mateo presented the methods for analyzing, including non-invasive screening to identify regurgitated pellets, feather analysis, blood and bone screening.

54. In Griffon Vultures in Spain, lead levels of more than 200 ng per milliliter of blood had been found in 35.7 to 91 per cent of all samples in three different regions monitored (in Aragón 5.6 per cent with more than 500 ng Pb/ml).

55. Mr Mateo illustrated the adverse effects of lead to general health status, immune response, reproduction and bone composition in birds.

56. He illustrated the strong effects of mortality due to lead contamination of carcasses to the population of the Californian Condor.

57. He then presented the readily available alternatives to lead shots and bullets, such as steel ammunition. He mentioned that in Spain, the use of lead ammunition was prohibited in Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites (wetlands of international importance), but not prohibited in some rice fields, which posed a risk since these areas could be closely located to each other and were both used by waterbirds, making the ban on lead ineffective. In Catalonia, for example, rice paddies were not recognized as wetlands, and thus the ban on lead shots would not apply.

58. He presented data on non-compliance with the lead ammunition regulations in Illinois, U.S. (non-compliance 1.1-1.8 per cent), and the UK (non-compliance 68-70 per cent). He showed data from his publications on lead prevalence in Mallards and Common Pochards over several years, showing still relatively high numbers because of continuing use in many areas. There was a reduction of contamination with reduction in the use of lead ammunition.

59. Mr Mateo reported that the ban of lead ammunition did not show long-term negative effects on hunting bags. Hunting bags had been indeed increasing after the ban. He also showed that the efficacy of copper bullets was not lower, but tended to be higher than lead bullets.

60. With regard to meat for human consumption, he illustrated the effect of embedded and ingested shot on lead levels in meat, also shown for different hunting seasons.

61. Mr. Stroud commented that a recent Ramsar Resolution considered rice paddies as wetlands.

62. Mr Botha commented that in Bearded Vultures in Botswana, high lead levels had been recorded in spite of a hunting ban existing for eight years.

63. Mr Scallan commented that time, awareness and flexibility would be needed when discussing the issue of lead ammunition use.

64. Ms Ruth Cromie, Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT), commented that food safety for shooters was an important issue. The problem also involved poor compliance by the shooters on the ground.

Session 6.

Agenda item 13.0: Discussion on the content of a draft resolution on bird poisoning to be submitted to CMS COP12 in October 2017

65. Mr Heredia explained that CMS had changed the procedure for new resolutions, introducing the consolidation of previous resolutions on the same issue. A new resolution on poisoning for COP12 would have to be added to the existing consolidated version. Also, there will be decisions addressed to specific CMS bodies like the Secretariat, Scientific Council, etc. This followed the same modus operandi as CITES.

66. Mr Scallan commented that the adoption of a programme of work, the TOR of the Lead Task Force, regional implementation plans, the IUCN resolution on lead, the need to engage Southern African countries implementation plan, and a division of labour among the different working groups and task forces would be important steps. He said that the lead discussion would be brought forward under the Task Force.

67. Mr Mahdavi commented that regulatory and enforcement problems with regard to the accumulation of toxics and the process of speciation should be tackled in cooperation with IUCN.

68. Ms Crockford commented that the IUCN motions from the World Conservation Congress in September 2016 should be reflected in the resolution. She suggested a situation analysis on other taxa, and proposed a joint meeting with the IUCN/SSC.

69. Mr Juan Carlos Atienza, SEO, commented that it would be important that Parties identify barriers and obstacles and solve related problems.

70. Mr Rick Patterson, Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers' Institute (SAAMI), U.S., commented that the new text should build on IUCN motion 90, which states that wildlife management decision making should be based on ensuring self-sustaining wildlife populations. He commented that management actions must be proportionate to the risk.

71. Ms Crockford suggested that the submission of a resolution on pollution to UNEA should be considered and included in the planning.

72. It was generally agreed that a cross reference to the Vulture MsAP should be included.

Agenda item 14.0: Composition of the Preventing Poisoning Working Group: expertise and geographical gaps

73. Ms Mirande suggested to invite more experts on insecticides and particularly representatives from East Asia.

74. Mr Mateo suggested to invite more wildlife toxicologists.

75. Mr Mahdavi suggested to circulate a newsletter to the PPWG every three months.

76. Ms Crockford suggested to invite representatives of welfare associations, IFAW and IUCN/SSC.

77. Representation from the Vulture MsAP at the PPWG, was recommended.

78. Mr Scallan recommended to invite another expert on lead such as a member of the ammunition working group of FACE. He questioned the current approach of inviting only one representative per sector.

79. Mr Stroud and Ms Crockford commented that especially for implementing the POW and the issue of rodenticides and insecticides, it would be desirable to involve communications professionals in the discussion.

80. With regard to the geographic extension, Mr Plesnik recommended inviting experts from the former USSR.

81. Mr Botha, Endangered Wildlife Trust South Africa, suggested inviting experts from East and West Africa, and Munir Virani and Darcy Ogada from the Peregrine Fund.

82. Mr Biber, African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan (AEMLAP), suggested to invite a representative of the Landbirds Working Group.

83. Mr Green suggested inviting a representative of the heavy metals programme and the pharmaceutical pollution programme of UNEP.
84. Ms Crockford suggested inviting a representative of the Rotterdam Convention.
85. Mr Scallan suggested inviting a representative of a landowner's organization, and from the International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey (IAF).
86. Ms Mirande suggested holding regular teleconference via Skype and to use Zoom as a tool for communications.
87. Mr Mahdavi suggested inviting a representative of the Ramsar Convention.
88. Mr Patterson suggested inviting a representative of the fishing community, and agreed with Mr Stroud and Ms Crockford to involve a communications expert. He supported Mr Scallan in questioning the sector approach, adding that the more balanced representation in the working group were the better.
89. Mr Heredia asked all members of the PPWG to send their concrete suggestions for candidates to invite by email to the CMS Secretariat.

Agenda item 15.0: Priority workshops to be organized in the triennium 2017-2020

90. With regard to future workshops, Ms Crockford suggested to hold a meeting of the new Lead Task Force back to back with another meeting. The same could be applied regarding the issue of pesticides.
91. Mr Mateo suggested linking meetings of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry to CMS. He would be ready to propose it to the Society. A possible connection could be made via Richard Shore, the former working group chair. Meetings would take place in Brussels in May 2017 and the U.S. in November 2017. Proposals for workshops should be submitted eight months in advance.
92. Ms Crockford stated that this was an exciting suggestion.
93. Mr Stroud recommended adopting a regional approach in the POW, connected to subject areas.
94. Mr Atienza recommended to use the momentum when the EU presidency changed. He would be present in the lead discussion at EU level.
95. Mr Mahdavi suggested liaising with IUCN and to be present in their meetings.
96. Mr Green said that for the issue of mandatory testing, specialists from the Wildlife Ecotoxicology Group would be highly needed.
97. Ms Mirande said that she could find out about the possibility of organizing a meeting on bird poisoning in South-east Asia.

Agenda item 16.0: Division of labour among different initiatives

98. Ms Crockford suggested that the BGs on the POW topics could define which tasks could be covered by other working groups or initiatives. The poison-baits issue could be covered by the Vulture Working Group.

99. Mr Atienza highlighted that it would be important to search for synergies. He added that it would be helpful to have coordinators for each topic and a formal group of coordinators.

100. In response to Ms Crockford's suggestion, Mr Williams said that about 80 of the 150 actions contained in the Vulture MsAP were related to poisoning. These actions included the adoption of Task Groups on sentinel poisoning, belief-based used, intentional poisoning and a lead of the Vulture MsAP would be the aim in this respect. However, first, the action framework would needed to be finalized, since it was not in this developed stage yet.

101. Mr Biber mentioned that organizing workshops was expensive. Taking the example of land use, therefore, it would be useful to include issues on poisoning in order to be able to organize cross-cutting issue workshops, including AEWAs and the Raptors MOU.

102. Ms Crockford mentioned that it would be important to avoid duplication of effort and make explicit reference in the POWs, but not a clear cut. The Vulture Working Group should take lead in vulture range states.

103. Mr Botha emphasized the importance to bring the Lead Task Force into the picture.

104. Mr Mahdavi suggested including more SDG related issues and response to the CBD Strategic Plan and Aichi Targets.

105. Ms Mirande mentioned that it would be useful to have a list of chemicals used for poison-baiting.

106. Mr Botha said that belief-based use did not only affect vultures.

107. Mr Atienza said that BirdLife International could help to push Parties for submission of national reports.

108. Mr Hatzofe, Israel, said that Israel would submit the listing proposal for the Steppe Eagle and the Lappet-Faced Vulture.

Session 8.*Agenda item 17.0: Proposal for the establishment of a Lead Task Force (TF) and terms of reference (TOR)*

109. A draft of the TOR of the Lead Task Force (UNEP/CMS/PPWG2/Doc.4), which had been compiled by some experts of the PPWG and the CMS Secretariat, coordinated by Ms Cromie, was presented to the participants for discussion. The Chair read through the draft document and asked for comments from the participants.

110. It was mentioned that the focus of the TF should include military ammunition as an important source of contamination.

111. Mr Andreotti, Italian National Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA), commented that the TF should include experts, and representatives of political bodies should not be in the majority.

112. Mr Plesnik commented that the TF should not include too many “blue sky” experts, but should have a practical approach.

113. Ms Cromie suggested involving a technical shooting body expert in the TF.

114. Mr Green said that a technical ballistic expert would be needed.

115. Mr Williams recommended keeping the TF more open and thus more flexible to be able to involve experts on an ad-hoc basis when needed.

116. It was commented that there should be no distinction between members and observers.

117. Mr Andreotti commented that experts on soil remediation would be needed.

118. Mr Atienza said that a communication expert would be needed.

119. For section 5. Governance, it was recommended to replace the term “Coordinator” by the term “Chair”.

120. Mr Heredia said that the setting up and invitation could be done by the CMS Secretariat. The Secretariat would compile the revised draft of the Lead TF TOR and circulate it to the members of the PPWG for comments.

121. Ms Crockford requested support and capacity from the CMS Secretariat for coordination of the TF.

122. Mr Stroud commented that the TF could suggest sources for funding of the coordinator.

123. Ms Cromie suggested holding at least one intersessional meeting and, feeling that the TF offered a positive opportunity for substantive progress on the issue of lead poisoning, sought the views of some of the shooting stakeholders who confirmed their optimism.

Agenda item 18.0: Appointment of a Coordinator for the PPWG and discussion on funding for this position and for implementation of activities

124. The Chair said that it was envisaged to appoint a coordinator for the PPWG. Mr Heredia explained that SEO/BirdLife Spain would be available for the interim coordination of the PPWG until a more permanent arrangement could be found, i.e. at least until CMS COP12.

125. At the suggestion of Ms Crockford, it was agreed that SEO/BirdLife would also coordinate the Lead TF on an interim basis until a more permanent arrangement could be found.

Agenda item 19.0: Summary of workshop and next steps

126. The Chair summarized the most important outcomes of the meeting and the next steps. The compiled POW and the draft of the TOR of the Lead TF would be circulated to all members

of the PPWG2, together with a report of the meeting. The Secretariat would include all comments in a draft for a compiled resolution for COP12.

Agenda item 20.0: Vote of thanks

127. Mr Heredia thanked

- the Regional Government of Castilla-La Mancha for providing funding and venue,
- the Raptors MOU Coordinating Unit: Nick Williams and Jenny Rennell, for general support and funding participants to attend both meetings,
- SEO/BirdLife: Juan Carlos Atienza, David de la Bodega, Sara Cabezas, Jorge Fernandez Orueta and other staff behind the scenes,
- the supporting organizations: VCF, Vulture Specialist Group, BirdLife International,
- the break out group facilitators: Beatriz Arroyo, Jovan Andevski and Olivier Biber
- the rapporteurs and note takers: Rubén Moreno-Opo, Nicola Crockford and David Stroud,
- the personnel at San Servando Castle for coffee, food, hospitality and technical support,
- Tilman Schneider, who had just landed at CMS and had worked very hard to prepare this meeting,
- all workshop participants for working long hours and for their constructive attitude,
- Beatriz Arroyo for chairing the meeting despite suffering from back ache.

Agenda item 21.0: Closure of the meeting

128. The Chair closed the meeting at 14:30hrs.

After the closure a documentary on bird poisoning in Cambodia was shown.

ANNEX 1

List of Participants of the 2nd Meeting of the CMS Preventing Poisoning Working Group

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