

Fourth Meeting of the Signatories of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of the Middle-European Population of the Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*)

Bad Belzig, Germany, 14 – 15 March 2018

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Agenda Item 9

MOU COORDINATION

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

1. The text of the MOU does not include any provisions on coordination, but each Meeting of Signatories (MOS) has taken some decisions on this topic.
2. At MOS1 (Austria, 2004) a document was introduced requesting the Signatories to consider the MOU coordination issue and financial aspects and to provide any guidance on possible options. The meeting invited the Secretariat to explore potential opportunities and invited Signatories that are CMS Parties to monitor the development of the CMS budget to ensure that adequate funding for activities, like another MOS, is considered in the process. A possible coordinator would catalyze the Medium-Term International Work Programme (MTIWP) and several Range States volunteered to take the lead on certain actions.
3. The Department for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management of Austria, offered financial support for the coordination of the implementation of the MTIWP (2005-2007). A contract was signed with BirdLife International which wrote a document on the status of the implementation of the MTIWP for MOS2. From 2005 – 2007, Dr. Szabolcs Nagy and Dr. Rainer Raab coordinated the instrument with Austrian funding.
4. At MOS2 (Ukraine, 2008), Hungary announced that it would be willing to provide in-kind assistance for the coordination of the MOU from 2009 onwards. Information regarding the TOR and financial implications would be required from CMS prior to making a final commitment.
5. At MOS3 (Hungary, 2013) it was agreed that Germany, Austria and Hungary would rotate in a one-year interval for the coordination of the MOU: Hungary until September 2014; Austria until September 2015, mainly focusing on the LIFE+ project; and Germany until MOS4. The Secretariat was asked to communicate with BirdLife International to ask whether they were willing to get more involved in this MOU.

6. One potential way forward to be discussed at MOS4 would be to link the organization and hosting of the Meeting of Signatories with the coordination of the MOU. This way, the country hosting MOS5 would be the one playing the coordination role in the inter-sessional period between MOS4 and MOS5, with the support of the Secretariat.

Action requested:

The Meeting of Signatories is requested to have a discussion on the MOU coordination and consider the possibility that the country hosting MOS5 will undertake the coordination in the period between MOS4 and MOS5.