

SAHERO-SAHARAN ANTELOPES

Project Review Group (PRG)

Terms of Reference

A. General provisions

1. The Project Review Group is established under the auspices of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) to facilitate cooperation and collaboration among scientific experts and decision-makers working on the conservation and restoration of the Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes in the framework of the SSA - AP.
2. Membership of the Project Review Group is subject to the following:
 - a) The maximum number of the experts comprising the Project Review Group should not exceed five;
 - b) Only persons with acknowledged long standing expertise shall be nominated as a member of the Project Review Group;
 - c) The experts shall be directly or institutionally involved in the project implementation;
 - d) Nominations from the Range States of the Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes shall be limited to Parties.
3. Participation in the Project Review Group's activities of any other individuals or institutions actively participating in the implementation of the Action Plan(s) can be considered at any time by the Project Review Group itself, and such individuals/institutions may contribute on invitation by the Chairperson.

B. Objectives

The objectives of the PRG are:

- a. To maintain and enhance the conservation and restoration status of the globally threatened North-African large mammalian fauna (i.e. Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes) through coordination of the implementation of the Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes Concerted Action Project;
- b. To intensify and improve international cross-border coordination and concerted action;
- c. To document the conservation status of the species and its [future positive or negative] population trends, in order to provide for a more timely conservation of similar species in the future;
- d. To provide technical/professional advice to institutions and individuals who are involved in project implementation.

C. Tasks

The Project Review Group shall:

1. (a) Review and approve project proposals developed under the Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes Concerted Action Project by ensuring that the proposed projects are:
 - i) technically, financially and politically sound and are capable of achieving proposed results;
 - ii) integrated in/or harmonized with other sub-programmes;
 - iii) included in the programme of work for the Project Review Group;
 - iv) responsive to clients' needs;
 - v) consistent with the Trust Fund requirements;
 - (b) Rigorously review and approve [costed work-plans and programmes of work] work and financial plans;
 - (c) Ensure that project proposals comply with the requirements and Terms of Reference of the programme of work approved by the Range States;
 - (d) Evaluate project proposals and reports on implementation of projects or sub-project and recommend to the administrative and fund management agency (*) whether the work has been performed in accordance with the objectives/TOR
 - (e) Develop written CMS recommendations on each project proposal for submission to the Secretariat .
 - (f) Develop criteria for technical evaluation of project proposals and project accomplishments for approval by the Chair of the Project Review Group.
2. Carry out regular assessments of the progress made on the implementation of the UNEP/CMS Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes Concerted Action Project including the preparation of regular status reports to the Scientific Council of the Convention;
 3. Recommend amendments to the Action Plan and associated status reports in response to new available information and experience;
 4. Contribute to the implementation of the Action Plan by securing operators and funds for actions in all the Range States;
 5. Facilitate consultation, communication, and co-operation with all actors *sponsors* [susceptible to contribute positively to the Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes] of the Project;
 6. Maintain close contact between the Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes Concerted Action Project and the national authorities of the Range States, and **to** intensify and improve cross-border and international co-operation.

D. Operational Procedures

1. The Project Review Group will appoint a Chairman to convene meetings, to organize its work with assistance of the CMS Secretariat and to represent the Project Review Group at relevant fora;
2. The Secretariat of the Project Review Group will be provided by the CMS Secretariat;
3. The Project Review Group will develop and adopt its rules of procedure (ROP). These rules of procedure shall include the proposal review process, manner of submitting the comments and results of evaluation to the CMS Secretariat and/or project proponent. The Project Review Group should seek to work by correspondence and only meet in urgent cases.. Such meetings will be held in a cost-effective way, preferably in conjunction with other relevant international meetings, whenever possible. Any meeting must have prior approval by the CMS Secretariat, including clarification of travel and meeting expenditures;
4. Where a meeting is necessary, at least three out of five members of the Project Review Group in attendance at a scheduled meeting form a quorum. In the absence of three members, the meeting should be adjourned. Members should attend and present their comments at scheduled Project Review Group meetings. However, if a member is unable to attend a scheduled meeting for legitimate reasons, his/her comments should be submitted to the Secretariat in advance of the regularly scheduled meeting. Three consecutive unreasonable absences of a member will be a sufficient reason to terminate his/her appointment as member of the Project Review Group. Replacement of the terminated member will be chosen from the previous nominees and can only serve the remaining term of the replaced member.
5. Regular communication among members of the group will be maintained by phone, fax, ordinary or electronic mail. The CMS Bulletin may serve as a medium for information of all relevant authorities, scientists, IGOs and NGOs as well as the interested public;
6. The Project Review Group will report via the CMS Secretariat to the CMS Scientific Council and/or Standing Committee, as appropriate;
7. The TOR shall be adopted by the Project Review Group members and endorsed by (1) the CMS Standing Committee [which will take into consideration] *upon* recommendation by the Chairperson of the Scientific Council, (2) the French authority acting as the CMS Focal Point on the appropriate level – with regard to the CMS Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes Concerted Action Project. Individuals invited to become members of the Project Review Group will request authorization from their superior, where relevant.
8. Any amendment to the TOR has to be proposed by the Secretariat to the Project Review Group or vice versa and, after agreement, submitted to the CMS Standing Committee and French Focal Point for adoption;

9. Members of the Project Review Group will be appointed by the CMS Standing Committee upon recommendation from the Chairman of the Scientific Council for a term of two years. New appointments and re-appointments shall be confirmed by the Standing Committee at its regular meetings, following Secretariat's invitation to Parties of the Range States to nominate appropriate candidates;
10. The working language will be English. However, members of the Project Review Group and the Secretariat shall endeavour to provide any important documents in both English and French.