



# Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)

Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

## 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the CMS Standing Committee

Bonn, 13-14 December 2001

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Agenda Item 7

### DRAFT OF TERMS OF REFERENCE, AND ESTABLISHMENT OF, PROJECT REVIEW GROUP FOR EVALUATION OF PROJECT PROPOSALS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN ON SAHELO-SAHARAN ANTELOPES

1. Representatives of the governments of the Range States of six endangered Sahelo-Saharan antelope species, *Oryx dammah*, *addax nasomaculatus*, *Gazella dama*, *Gazella leptoceros*, *Gazella cuvieri*, *Gazella dorcas*, together with representative of neighboring countries, of scientific institutions, of non-governmental organizations and a panel of experts met at Djerba, Tunisia, from 19-23 February 1998 and adopted the Action plan on the conservation and restoration of Sahelo-Saharan antelopes and invited all national and international governmental institutions inside as well as outside the range of the species concerned, to implement the Action Plan and to integrate it into their activities.
2. The Conference of the Parties, at its Sixth meeting, noted that the six species of Sahelo-Saharan antelopes are listed in Appendix I of the Convention and are the subject of a concerted action guided by the Scientific Council. In its Recommendation 6.3 (Cape Town, 1999), it exhorted the Scientific Council, the Range States and other Parties to pursue their efforts in favour of the Sahelo-Saharan antelopes within the framework of the existing concerted action; and urged the Range States to implement without delay the Action Plan of the Convention, with the assistance of the Scientific Council and in the spirit of the Djerba Declaration, and to seek to that effect all possible bilateral and international cooperation.
3. The French Ministry of Land Planning and the Environment (MLPE) is finalizing a project proposal to the FFEM (Fond Français pour l'Environnement Mondial - French GEF programme) as part of a global project implementation of the Action Plan on the recovery and conservation of Sahelo-Saharan antelopes. This global project covers all the Range States in which these antelopes had been found, i.e. the fourteen countries being part of the Sahelo-Saharan region: Algeria, Burkina Faso, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sudan and Tunisia. The has funded the Instruction Phase in Mali, Niger and Tunisia and three national projects are presently being drafted by IRSNB and ONFCS. The feasibility study will be forwarded to the Project Review Group for validation and submission to MLPE.
4. Since the last meeting of the Parties, the Secretariat was approached and has been requested by MLPE to manage the Project. Cognisance of the limited capacity of the Secretariat, the establishment of a Project Review Group is proposed to assist the Secretariat in validation of scientific reports from implementing organizations. The attached Draft Terms of Reference have been developed, taking into account comments from members of the Standing Committee and Scientific Councillors for your review and adoption.
5. Proposals for membership to the Project Review Group will be tabled separately during the Meeting for nomination by the Standing Committee.

6. At present, three projects are ongoing whose output will require validation and approval by the Project Review Group. The ongoing projects are: development of national projects in Tunisia, Mali and Niger funded by MLPE and currently being implemented by Office National de la Chasse et de la Faune Sauvage (ONCFS) and Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique (IRSNB); and a survey in Chad which is co-funded by the Smithsonian Institute and CMS and is being implemented by Conservation & Research Center Foundation (CRC).

7. Action requested by the Committee:

- Review the draft Terms of Reference and advise the Secretariat on how to amend them
- Decide on Nominations to the Project Review Group