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Agenda Item 22.1

IMPLEMENTATION OF EXISTING CMS INSTRUMENTS

Summary

This document is a progress report on activities related to all the existing Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) and the agreements under development, since COP10.

The development and implementation of CMS MOUs contributes to:

- Resolution 10.16: Priorities for CMS Agreements;
- Resolution 10.5: Strategic Plan 2006-2014: targets 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.7, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.6, 4.3 and 4.8; and
- Resolution 10.9 on Future Shape, activities 2, 4, 8, 10, 11, 12 and 15.

IMPLEMENTATION OF EXISTING CMS INSTRUMENTS

(Prepared by the UNEP/CMS Secretariat)

I. BACKGROUND

1. This document is a progress report on activities related to all the existing Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) and the instruments under development, since COP10.

II. AGREEMENTS

2. The seven legally binding Agreements are the subject of separate progress reports.

III. MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING

3. To date, 19 MOUs have been concluded under CMS Article IV. No new MOUs have been developed or entered into effect since COP10. The CMS Secretariat is responsible for the administrative and depositary functions for 17 of the 19 MOUs. Three of these (IOSEA, Dugongs and Raptors) are based in CMS project offices in locations away from Bonn, supported by external funding. For the remaining 14 MOUs, the CMS Secretariat headquarters in Bonn provide secretariat services, within prevailing human and financial resource constraints. Finally, in the case of two MOUs (Ruddy-headed Goose and South Andean Huemul), the CMS Secretariat provides only depositary functions, with secretariat functions being fulfilled by the two Signatories (Argentina and Chile) in rotation.

4. Owing to the perceived proliferation in the number of MOUs and related funding constraints, Parties, through Resolution 10.9, Activity 5, called for “an assessment of MOUs and their viability”. The Secretariat developed an initial assessment, which was sent to Parties in April 2014. A final version incorporating comments received can be found in UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.22.3.

5. In addition, Resolution 10.16 instructed the Secretariat “to develop for consideration and adoption at COP11 a policy approach to the development, resourcing and servicing of agreements in the context of Resolution 10.9”. The resulting document and draft resolution, which include a set of criteria for assessing proposals for new agreements, can be found at UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.22.2.

6. This report highlights the current state of activities, as at July 2014, undertaken since COP10. The 19 MOUs have been grouped below, based on their habitat, i.e., aquatic species (mammals, reptiles and fish), avian species and terrestrial species.

AQUATIC SPECIES

AQUATIC SPECIES

AQUATIC MAMMALS

Dugong

Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Dugongs (*Dugong dugon*) and their Habitat throughout their Range

7. The CMS Secretariat provides the Secretariat for this MOU through its office in Abu Dhabi, funded largely by the UAE government. The co-location of the secretariat services of the Dugongs and Raptors MOUs is in line with Resolution 10.9, Activities 8.3 and 15.2.

8. The Second Meeting of Signatory States took place in Manila, Philippines in February 2013 and saw several successful outcomes including the endorsement of the Dugong, Seagrass and Coastal Communities Initiative (Dugong Initiative), the establishment of the Dugong Technical Group and a Joint Work Plan with the IUCN Sirenia Specialist Group.

9. Since 2011, the Dugong MOU Secretariat has been actively pursuing funding for the Dugong Initiative and for a Gulf Dugong Action Programme targeting the world's second largest population of dugongs which is shared by the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Bahrain.

10. After three years of preparation the GEF Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project received CEO Endorsement in July 2014. This five-year project, worth a net total of US\$5.88 million, will see eight countries (Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mozambique, the Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Timor Leste and Vanuatu) undertake 40 projects, which will contribute to enhancing the effectiveness of conservation of dugongs and their seagrass ecosystems across the Indian and Pacific Ocean basins. To complement the GEF Project, the Dugong MOU Secretariat is currently undertaking pilot projects in India, Myanmar and Thailand.

11. The Dugong MOU has also gained six new signatories since COP10, bringing the total number to 26.

Mediterranean Monk Seal

Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Eastern Atlantic Populations of the Mediterranean Monk Seal (*Monachus monachus*)

12. The CMS Secretariat provides the secretariat function for this MOU, while the Government of Spain continues its coordination role, including the following activities:

- Coordination and implementation of the Monk Seal Recovery Plan in the Atlantic.
- Establishment of a system to monitor the conservation status of Monk Seals and their habitat in the Madeira Archipelago and to minimize consequences of negative known human interactions. This work is being undertaken by the CBD-Habitat Foundation and funded by the LIFE + EU Programme.

- Support to Monk Seal conservation projects and marine protected areas reinforcement in the African Atlantic range of the species through the Spain-UNEP Partnership for Protected Areas (LifeWeb).
- Training of local artisan fishermen in responsible and suitable fisheries.
- Installation of photo-trap cameras in caves and open beaches in Cap Blanc peninsula in Morocco and Mauritania in order to determine Monk Seals' presence and habitat use.

13. The CMS Meeting of the Action Plan Working Group was held in June 2014 and the four Range States adopted amendments to the Plan.

Pacific Islands Cetaceans

Memorandum of Understanding for the Conservation of Cetaceans and their Habitats in the Pacific Islands Region

14. The CMS Secretariat provides the secretariat function for this MOU, with assistance from the CMS Pacific Officer, located at the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP) in line with Resolution 10.9, Activity 8.2.

15. The Third meeting of the Signatories took place in New Caledonia in September, 2012 and a key outcome was the endorsement by Signatories of the 2013-2017 SPREP Marine Species Action Plan as the updated MOU Action Plan.

16. Activities of the MOU Action Plan which are recently completed or currently being implemented include:

- development of a Management Plan for dolphins in the Solomon Islands;
- development of Fiji's Whale Sanctuary Management Plan;
- facilitation of cetacean stranding training for Tonga and Vanuatu in partnership with NOAA and University of Hawaii in July 2014, building on similar training for Fiji in 2012;
- improving understanding of species diversity in Pacific Island countries and territories through increased use of www.pacificcetaceans.org and development and trial of "MObl" a Smartphone application for citizen science; and
- proposal developed for submission to the 25th SPREP Annual meeting to declare 2016-2017 as the Pacific Year of the Whale.

17. A call was put out to Signatories in May 2013, inviting them to review the MOU Action Plan in addition to the CMS Global Programme of Work for Cetaceans and the CMS Scientific Council review and identify immediate priorities for national/regional implementation. Additionally, they were invited to identify any new activities of relevance. The NGO, Wild Migration is supporting CMS in this activity.

18. The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) expanded its membership to 12 with the endorsement of two additional nominees from the USA, the most recent Signatory to the MOU.

19. A paper on the seabed mining and its impact on cetaceans in the Pacific Islands Region is being prepared by the TAG.

20. The CMS Pacific Officer presented the MOU as an example of a working conservation mechanism and partnership in the region at a recent meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) Working Groups on Conservation Management Plans and Whale Watching (24-26 May 2013, Australia).
21. The TAG coordinator promoted the MOU Action Plan and the CMS Strategic Plan at the CBD 'Regional Workshop for the Pacific Countries on the Preparation of the Fifth National Report'.
22. The Laucala Declaration, adopted at the 9th Pacific Island Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas (December, 2013) referenced the work of CMS and encouraged implementation by the Pacific Islands region.
23. Letters were sent to all Signatories in December 2013, updating them on progress in the implementation of the MOU and seeking funding for Action Plan implementation. The New Zealand Government provided some funds to establish the online workspace.
24. The Joint Preparatory Meeting and CMS pre-COP 11 for the Pacific Islands (August 11 - 20, 2014 in Fiji) will be used as an opportunity to further promote the MOU and Action Plan and in particular to encourage its inclusion in national processes (e.g. NBSAPs) to aid implementation.
25. The United States of America signed the MOU in September 2012, bringing the number of Signatories to 15. Palau has expressed an interest in signing the MOU.

Western African Aquatic Mammals

Memorandum of Understanding Concerning the Conservation of the Manatee and Small Cetaceans of Western Africa and Macaronesia

26. The CMS Secretariat provides the secretariat for this MOU. Due to limited resources, little action has been taken since COP10. The idea of establishing a Technical Advisory Group, along the lines of that operating under the PIC MOU, remains a possibility.
27. The Secretariat attended the Meeting of the West African Marine and Coastal Conservation Partnership (PCRM) in November 2013 and the 11th Conference of the Parties to the Abidjan Convention in March 2014 to promote the regional MOUs and identify suitable partners for implementation in the region.
28. The Secretariat is also considering whether any coordination arrangements for this MOU could be combined with that of the Atlantic marine turtles in keeping with Resolution 10.9, Activity 15.2, although neither a suitable partner for coordination nor funds to enable their work have yet been identified.

MARINE REPTILES AND FISH

Atlantic Turtles

Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for Marine Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa

29. The CMS Secretariat provides the secretariat for this MOU. From 2005 to 2012, coordination services had been provided by the Senegal-based Coordination Unit known by its French acronym URTOMA, until lack of funds prevented its continuation. The CMS Secretariat has sought other coordination arrangements, including the possibility of combining with the Memorandum of Understanding Concerning the Conservation of the Manatee and Small Cetaceans of Western Africa and Macaronesia, as mentioned above and in keeping with Resolution 10.9, Activity 15.2.

30. With assistance from the French Government, a project was implemented by the NGO Association Chelonée: *Official publication of gazette (décret de classification) of the Elombo National Marine Park in Cameroon and developing the draft conservation plan for the park.* The project began September 2013.

31. In April 2013, the Secretariat contacted Signatories to inform them about progress on the implementation of MOU and apprise them of related plans and needs for its further development including funding. The Secretariat also asked Signatories for information on activities that have been and are planned to be carried out at the national level in order to determine the progress on implementation of the Conservation Plan during this reporting period. The following Signatories have submitted progress reports: Democratic Republic of Congo, Senegal and Sierra Leone.

32. The Secretariat attended the Meeting of the West African Marine and Coastal Conservation Partnership (PCRM) in November 2013 and the 11th Conference of the Parties to the Abidjan Convention in March 2014 to promote the regional MOUs and identify suitable partners for implementation in the region.

33. The number of Signatories remains at 23 out of a total of 26 Range States.

IOSEA Turtles

Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia (IOSEA Marine Turtles MOU)

34. The CMS Secretariat provides the Secretariat for this MOU through its office which is co-located with the UNEP regional office in Bangkok, in line with Resolution 10.9, Activities 8.1 and 8.2. It is funded through voluntary contributions from Signatories.

35. The substantive work of the Secretariat has been concentrated in five main areas:

- ***IOSEA Marine Turtle Site Network:*** A dedicated webpage was created to serve as a one-stop shop for all information related to the Site Network. The Evaluation Criteria to assess site nominations were refined and potential candidate sites were solicited

from experts and the Advisory Committee resulting in a list of 80 potential candidate sites or areas in some 34 countries around the IOSEA region. Site Information Sheets (SIS) for about 20 of the suggested sites were compiled.

- ***Development of online tools:*** A prototype of the IOSEA International Flipper Tag Recovery Database, that allows users to report, search and analyse international flipper tag recoveries throughout the Indian Ocean – South-East Asia region, was completed and populated with information on tag recoveries from several Range States. Other online tools have been continuously updated, such as the IOSEA Satellite Tracking Metadatabase, which now covers more than 220 projects conducted in about 30 countries of the IOSEA region.
- ***Official reports and technical publications:*** A Review of Marine Turtle Conservation in the Northern Indian Ocean (by Dr. Jeff Miller); and an updated Assessment of the Conservation Status of the Leatherback Turtle in the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia (by Dr Ronel Nel) were published in 2012. In April 2013, the Secretariat published a systematic analysis of national reports of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), to assess their contribution to the understanding of marine turtle by-catch in the Indian Ocean and of the efficacy of by-catch mitigation measures undertaken by IOTC member States. In September 2013, the Assessment of the Conservation Status of the Loggerhead Turtle in the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia (by Dr. Mark Hamman et al.) was published, and in February 2014, the Secretariat published a working draft of a substantial review of studies and activities that relate to the socio-economic and cultural implications of marine turtle use and conservation in the IOSEA region.
- ***IOSEA Technical Support / Capacity Building:*** In March 2012, the first phase of the IOSEA Technical Support / Capacity Building Programme concluded successfully in Myanmar, with a theoretical and field training course delivered by IOSEA Advisory Committee member, Dr Colin Limpus,. Thanks to a grant from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service Marine Turtle Conservation Fund the programme could be extended into a second phase.
- ***Facilitating information exchange:*** The MOU website (www.ioseaturtles.org) fulfilled key functions of the Secretariat in facilitating the exchange of information. Monthly ‘e-News’ were sent out to a list of 1,000 subscribers.

36. Since COP10 Egypt and Sudan have joined the Memorandum of Understanding, bringing the total number of Signatories to 35.

Sharks

Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks

37. The CMS Secretariat continues to provide the Interim Secretariat to the Sharks MOU in Bonn, as requested by Signatories at their first meeting.

38. The First Meeting of Signatories took place in Bonn, Germany from 24-27 September 2012, attended by 20 Signatories, and approximately 80 other Range States and observers. The meeting:

- Adopted the Conservation Plan for Migratory Sharks, and established an Advisory Committee;
- adopted a procedure for amending the MOU, including the species list;
- adopted a three-year budget to be funded by voluntary contributions, and placed in a Trust Fund; and
- established an Intersessional Working Group mandated to further develop draft Terms of Reference for Meetings of the Signatories and to define the role of Cooperating Partners as well as to develop a procedure for admitting those partners.

39. Two NGOs, the Humane Society International - USA and the Humane Society International - Australia, signed the MOU as Cooperating Partners during the first Meeting of Signatories and further NGOs have shown interest in doing so in future.

40. Following up on decisions taken at the First Meeting of the Signatories the Interim Secretariat has implemented the following activities:

- Supported the Advisory Committee (AC) in its establishment and its initial work.
- Assisted the Intersessional Working Group in starting its work on developing Rules of Procedure for Meetings of Signatories and questions regarding Cooperating Partners to the MOU.
- Established a Trust Fund for the MOU and requested Signatories to contribute to the approved budget through voluntary contributions. The first report on the implementation of the budget for 2013 was sent to Signatories in July 2014.
- Developed a new website aiming to provide Signatories and other interested audiences access to relevant information about the MOU. Its content will be migrated to the future CMS Family website upon the finalization of the latter (www.sharksmou.org).
- Developed an online workspace to support the work of the Advisory Committee and the Intersessional Working Group (<http://workspace.cms.int/sharks/>).
- Represented the MOU at a regional meeting on shark conservation in the Arabian region, which was organized by IFAW International in cooperation with Shark Quest Arabia in October 2012; organized a side event at CITES COP16 in March 2013, focusing on both the MOU as well as the proposals to list relevant species on the CITES Appendices; participated in CITES Animals Committee Meeting in 2014 as member of the Sharks Working Group, attended the 10th Meeting of the Ecologically Related Species Group of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) in July 2013; attended the Meeting of the West African Marine and Coastal Conservation Partnership (PCRM) in November 2013 and the 11th Conference of the Parties to the Abidjan Convention in March 2014 to promote the regional MOUs and identify suitable partners for implementation in the region; the 23rd Regular Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) in November 2013; and the 2nd Sharks International conference in June 2014.
- Brought written statements and recommendations, related to draft decisions on the conservation of migratory sharks to the attention of Parties to CITES, the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) as well as the World Customs Organization (WCS) at their meetings.

- Cooperated on conservation projects with NGO partners: aiming to build capacity on the conservation of sharks in the Arabian region, funded through the European Commission; and raising awareness on threats to sharks in Palau, funded by Monaco.
41. A full time P3 and part time G5 position for the Interim Secretariat are being established by UNEP. Recruitment will depend on sufficient funding being received. While Signatories agreed an annual budget of over €300,000, insufficient funds were received in the first year to permit recruitment. The current German funded post will cease at the end of 2014.
42. The Secretariat together with its outposted officers in Washington, Apia, Abu Dhabi and Bangkok and with support from partner NGOs is active in recruitment efforts to increase membership in the MOU.
43. There are currently 36 Signatories to the MOU, 11 of which have joined since COP10 including 8 countries from the Middle East and Northern African region.
44. The second Meeting of Signatories is planned for the third quarter of 2015.

AVIAN SPECIES

Aquatic Warbler

Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Aquatic Warbler (*Acrocephalus paludicola*)

45. The CMS Secretariat provides the secretariat for this MOU, while BirdLife International, through its UK partner, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), continues to provide coordination services. This arrangement covers administration of the MOU; Aquatic Warbler data management; facilitating communications across the species' range; supporting existing conservation projects; monitoring; direct active conservation work and research and development of new conservation and research projects, including fundraising.
46. The Secretariat attended an international conference on Aquatic Warbler Conservation, which took place in Vilnius, Lithuania, from 14-15 November 2013. The conference was organized by the Baltic Environmental Forum Lithuania within the EU LIFE+ programme in frame of the project "Securing sustainable farming to ensure conservation of globally threatened bird species in agrarian landscapes".
47. The conference highlighted, *inter alia*, the following issues as being of key importance for Aquatic Warbler conservation:
- The decline of Aquatic Warbler in almost all areas, especially of the marginal populations;
 - Possible emergency measures such as translocation to boost particularly threatened populations;
 - Management conflicts (e.g. Ratrik mowing with positive impacts for Aquatic Warbler and negative impacts for other species);
 - Requirements for agro-environmental management within the European Union; and
 - Significant knowledge gaps regarding wintering and stopover sites in Africa.

Birds of Prey

Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors MOU)

48. The CMS Secretariat provides the Secretariat (known as the Coordinating Unit) for this MOU, through its office in Abu Dhabi, funded largely by the UAE Government. The co-location of the secretariat services of the Dugongs and Raptors MOUs is in line with Resolution 10.9, Activities 8.3 and 15.2.

49. The main activities and achievements of the Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MOU, since CMS COP10, are listed below:

- [First Meeting of Signatories](#)¹ (MOS1) to the Raptors MOU held in December 2012 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates;
- [Established a Technical Advisory Group \(TAG\)](#) and held the first Meeting² of TAG in January 2014 in Edinburgh, Scotland - TAG WorkPlan 2014-15 agreed and underway;
- [Saker Falcon Task Force](#)³ established and supported to develop an internationally coordinated Saker Falcon (*Falco cherrug*) Global Action Plan (SakerGAP), including a management and monitoring system, to conserve the species (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.1.5);
- [Fieldwork Capacity Enhancement Project](#)⁴ completed during 2012-13 in North-East Africa, in collaboration with BirdLife Bulgaria (BSPB), to gather critical information on the wintering ecology of the endangered Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*);
- [Egyptian Vulture Flyway Action Plan](#)⁵ being developed in collaboration with BSPB. Action Planning Workshop scheduled to be held in February 2015 in Sofia, Bulgaria;
- [Sooty Falcon Working Group](#)⁶ established in 2013 to develop an International Single Species Action Plan (ISSAP) for the near-threatened Sooty Falcon (*Falco concolor*);
- [Raptors MOU website revised and updated](#) in concert with the CMS Family website, including the launch of a dedicated Online WorkSpace in March 2013, to facilitate intersessional activities of TAG, workstreams and working groups; and
- [Technical Mission to Nagaland, India](#) in November 2013 to support successful efforts to address the massive, unsustainable harvest of Amur Falcons⁷, including fitting three falcons with satellite tags to track their migratory movements;

¹ <http://www.cms.int/en/meeting/1st-meeting-signatories-raptors-mou>

² <http://www.cms.int/en/meeting/1st-meeting-technical-advisory-group-raptors-mou-tag1>

³ <http://www.cms.int/raptors/en/workinggroup/saker-falcon-task-force>

⁴ <http://www.cms.int/en/project/capacity-building-support-conservation-migratory-egyptian-vultures-neophron-percnopterus>

⁵ <http://www.cms.int/en/project/flyway-action-plan-conservation-balkan-and-central-asian-populations-egyptian-vulture>

⁶ <http://www.cms.int/raptors/en/workinggroup/sooty-falcon-working-group>

⁷ http://www.cms.int/raptors/sites/default/files/amur_falcons_nagaland_11_2013.pdf

- [African Raptor DataBank](#) enhanced by co-sponsoring a smart phone application (App) launched in July 2014 to enable and encourage citizen scientists to capture observational data of raptors throughout the African continent⁸;
- **Secured eight new Signatories to the MOU:** France (May 2012); Slovakia (May 2012); Somalia (December 2012); Niger (December 2012); Tunisia (May 2013); Sweden (July 2013); Egypt (September 2013); Libya (November 2013) and a new Cooperating Partner: International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey (IAF) – December 2012. As of July 2014 the MOU has been signed by 46 countries.

Grassland Birds

Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Southern South American Migratory Grassland Bird Species and their Habitats

50. The CMS Secretariat provides the Secretariat function for this MOU.

51. The Secretariat is currently in discussion with Guyra Paraguay; the BirdLife representative in Paraguay, regarding the establishment of a formal coordination arrangement for the MOU, in line with Resolution 10.9, Activity 8.2. Guyra Paraguay and BirdLife have supported the development of the MOU since 2005, and also supported the elaboration of the Action Plan, approved by the MOU Signatories in Paraguay in 2010.

Great Bustard

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

52. The CMS Secretariat provides the secretariat to this MOU. Three Signatories share coordination functions on a rotational basis.

53. The Hungarian Government hosted the Third Meeting of Signatories back to back with a scientific symposium on Great Bustards in the Körös-Maros National Park, Hungary from 8-12 April 2013.

54. The two-day Scientific Symposium focussed on the development and use of guidelines and on main challenges for Great Bustard conservation. The Symposium was followed by an excursion into the National Park to view Great Bustards in mating plumage and learn about current predator trapping methods and extensive agriculture. Hungary is home to the largest Great Bustard population in Central Europe.

55. At MOS3, the Signatories agreed to the following:

- Expanded the geographical scope of the MOU, adding four new Range States:
 - Italy and Montenegro as they can be considered a potential wintering area for the Great Bustard.

⁸ <http://www.cms.int/raptors/en/news/new-citizen-science-tool-record-birds-prey-sightings-across-africa>

- Russian Federation (European part only) as a large population of Great Bustards from Russia regularly overwinters in the Ukraine.
- Serbia as a small breeding population exists in northern Serbia which is probably connected to the southern Hungarian populations.
- Adopted an Action Plan noting that there is still information pending from Signatories that needs to be included in the Annexes of the document.
- Reviewed the existing Medium-term International Work Programme (MTIWP) (2008-2012) and adopted a new MTIWP for the period 2013-2016.
- Germany, Hungary and Austria agreed to share the coordination function rotating on an annual basis. Germany agreed to host MOS4 in 2016.
- Agreed to use an online workspace to better coordinate the efforts for the Great Bustard.

56. As Hungary met most of the costs of MOS3, the Secretariat had only to provide travel for itself and eligible delegates and some hospitality. As the Secretariat has no budget for MOU meetings, even this modest amount was difficult to find.

57. The Great Bustard MOU has been signed by 13 countries (as of July 2014) and 4 cooperating organizations. Signatories urged the other Range States, particularly Bosnia and Herzegovina, Poland and Slovenia, to sign the MOU.

High Andean Flamingos

Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of High Andean Flamingos (*Phoenicopterus andinus* and *Ph. jamesi*) and their Habitats

58. The CMS Secretariat provides the secretariat to this MOU.

59. The Chile National Forestry Commission organized an unofficial meeting of the Signatory States and other stakeholders to develop an Action Plan for the MOU. This meeting took place in Antofagasta, Chile, 8-9 August 2013. Delegates from Chile, Bolivia, Peru and Argentina were invited together with the CMS Secretariat and other experts and NGOs that work on the species.

Ruddy-headed Goose

Memorandum of Understanding for the Conservation of the Ruddy-headed Goose (*Chloephaga rubidiceps*)

60. The CMS Secretariat acts as depositary of the MOU, while secretariat functions are provided by the Signatories themselves in rotation.

61. Chile continues to manage a three-year programme for the prevention and control of invasive species in Magallanes, which deals with monitoring, research and education activities, the control of selling exotic pets in the region, the construction of protected breeding sites for the Ruddy-headed Goose and other conservation measures. Three pilot modules are being built in strategic areas to protect the species reproduction. It is planned to build in estancia Santa

María. Measures will be put in place to prevent the attack of stray dogs. The programme will run until 2014. In the second semester of 2012 the Ministry of Environment through its SEREMI Region of Magallanes contracted a consultancy firm to formulate a first draft of the Recovery, Conservation and Management Plan of the Ruddy-Headed Goose, under the framework of Article 37 of Law 19.300 on Bases Generales de Medio Ambiente, including a new population estimate for the period 2012-2013 in the breeding areas. For the elaboration of the Plan a number of workshops and meetings with regional stakeholders both from the public and private sectors were organized. Currently a new version of the Plan is being prepared that will be reviewed during the second semester of 2014.

62. The Fifth Bilateral Ministers Meeting between Argentina and Chile took place in Santiago, Chile, on 23 August 2013. During this meeting the Action Plan was approved. The aim of the Plan is to recover the continental and Tierra del Fuego population of the species to a level that will ensure its conservation status. Potential measures under consideration include: monitoring nesting and wintering areas; preventing non-target hunting and evaluating alternative breeding arrangements.

Siberian Crane

Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Siberian Crane (*Grus leucogeranus*)

63. The CMS Secretariat provides the secretariat for this MOU, while the International Crane Foundation (ICF) continues to provide coordination services, in line with Resolution 10.9, Activity 8.2. Funding of US\$10,000 has been provided by the Secretariat to cover the salary of a part-time coordinator based in Moscow for one year until September 2014. Activities include facilitation of information exchange, production of a newsletter, support to public awareness and education programmes, and the maintenance of the Siberian Crane Flyway Coordination website (www.sibeflyway.org) as a dynamic information platform under the MOU.

64. Plans are being made to engage the signatories in an update of the conservation plans in 2015-2016. A species assessment reviewing status, threats, and conservation priorities and updated range maps are being prepared to include in the updated Wetlands International/IUCN Crane Conservation Plan.

65. Significant progress has been made to engage hunters, hunting agencies, and border guards in crane conservation in Central Asia. Ecological education activities are being continued with hunters at designated and potential new sites of the Western/Central Asian Critical Site Network (WCASN) with a second grant from Mohammed Bin-Zayed Species Conservation Fund and administration by ICF.

66. In China, a water control structure is still under consideration for the outlet to Poyang Lake, which is by far the most important wetland in East Asia for wintering waterbirds and critical habitat for more than 98 per cent of all Critically Endangered Siberian Cranes. ICF is working with Poyang Lake National Nature Reserve and several research institutions to study crane and wetland ecology to strengthen the scientific basis for evaluating development plans including the proposed dam, in order to sustain biodiversity and other ecosystem services of Poyang Lake. Over 80 per cent of Siberian Cranes have staged at Momoge and Tumuji National Nature Reserves in most recent years. ICF collaborates with the reserves and

provincial governments at these two sites to ensure sustained water releases (for Momoge) and to develop climate resilient management plans.

67. In the Russian Federation, the “Flight of Hope” Project continues in west Siberia to promote Siberian Crane reintroduction through showing captive-reared chicks migration routes by teaching them to fly behind ultralight aircraft. Eight Siberian Crane chicks were reared at Oka Crane Breeding Centre and released in autumn of 2013 in Volga Delta and in Belozersky Wildlife Refuge in the south of Tyumen Region. Three one-year old Siberian Cranes were released on the breeding grounds at Uvat in June 2013.

68. The Siberian Crane Flyway News, Issue 13 was published in English and Russian, including information on key sites along the three Siberian Crane Flyways, captive breeding and reintroduction, and education programmes, and is available on the CMS website (<http://www.cms.int/en/publication/siberian-crane-flyway-news>).

Slender-billed Curlew

Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Slender-billed Curlew (*Numenius tenuirostris*)

69. No action has taken place for the Slender-Billed Curlew MOU since COP10.

TERRESTRIAL SPECIES

Bukhara Deer

Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation and Restoration of the Bukhara Deer (*Cervus elaphus bactrianus*)

70. The CMS Secretariat provides the secretariat for this MOU.

71. During the First Meeting of Signatories to the MOU on 20 November 2011 in the margins of CMS COP10, Signatories decided to develop a Medium-term International Work Programme (MTIWP) with key priority activities for the conservation of Bukhara Deer. Signatories agreed on a format to be completed by email consultation. While the Secretariat had initiated the consultation process, input from Signatories is still pending and the MTIWP is yet to be finalized.

72. While communication between the Secretariat and Signatories remains low, the conservation status of the Bukhara Deer has significantly improved over the past years with most of the activities of the current Action Plan having been implemented with considerable assistance from WWF Russia.

73. In March 2013, the Secretariat contacted Signatories to inform them about progress on the implementation of MOU and apprise them of related plans and needs for its further development including funding. The Secretariat also asked Signatories for information about activities that have been carried out or have been planned at the national level with a view to assist the development of the international programme of work.

74. If funding were to become available, the Secretariat would consider the possibility of organizing a dedicated technical meeting to finalize the MTIWP and agree on priorities for the coming years.

Saiga Antelope

Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of the Saiga Antelope (*Saiga* spp.)

75. The CMS Secretariat provides the secretariat for this MOU, with technical coordination provided by the two NGOs listed below, in line with Resolution 10.9, Activity 8.2.

76. The two coordinating organizations of the MOU, the Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan (ACBK) and the Saiga Conservation Alliance (SCA) have been working to set up a comprehensive website, the Saiga Resource Centre (www.saigaresourcecentre.com), which was launched during a technical meeting on 18 June 2013 in Astana, Kazakhstan. In line with the Medium-term International Work Programme (MTIWP) 2010-2015, which was adopted by signatories at their Second Meeting (September 2010), the website aims to monitor progress towards implementation of the MOU and the MTIWP and to facilitate communication and information exchange between official focal points and other Saiga stakeholders.

77. Since 2011, when both NGOs officially took over coordination, they have set up the Saiga Resource Centre with initial funding from Switzerland, as well as distributed and translated four issues of the bi-annual newsletter, the Saiga News.

78. In late 2012, the Secretariat in cooperation and with funding from the Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS) and Flora & Fauna International (FFI), the Secretariat initiated a study to investigate the situation and the anticipated effects of the above-mentioned infrastructure developments (border fence and railways) on Saiga and develop a set of recommendations to be presented to the Kazakh authorities. The results were discussed in meetings with the relevant Kazakh authorities (Environmental Ministry, Transport Ministry and security/border offices).

79. The resulting report “Saiga Crossing Options. Guidelines and Recommendations to Mitigate Barrier Effects of Border Fencing and Railroad Corridors on Saiga Antelope in Kazakhstan” was presented in English and Russian at a one-day technical meeting under the Saiga MOU in June 2013 in Astana, Kazakhstan. At the meeting, the impact of infrastructure construction on Saiga as well as possible mitigation solutions were discussed. Furthermore, the Saiga Resource Centre which serves as international coordination mechanism as mentioned above, was introduced. The meeting was co-organized by CMS, SCA and ACBK.

80. The Secretariats of CMS and CITES organized a joint side event on the Saiga MOU at the CITES COP16 in Bangkok in March 2013. The side event brought together representatives from Range States and from States that trade in and consume Saiga products, to discuss the main threats to the species and how these are currently being addressed under the MOU and under CITES. Representatives from China and the Chinese Traditional Medicine industry participated in the meeting and reiterated their interest in contributing to in-situ Saiga conservation and to strengthen cooperation with Range States.

81. In February 2013, the Secretariat contacted Signatories to inform them about progress on the implementation of MOU and apprise them of related plans and needs for its further development including funding. The Secretariat also requested Signatories to provide information about the activities that have been and are planned to be carried out at the national level in order to determine the progress on implementation of the Medium-Term International Work Programme (2011-2015) during this reporting period.

South Andean Huemul

Memorandum of Understanding for the Conservation of the South Andean Huemul (*Hippocamelus bisulcus*)

82. The CMS Secretariat acts as depositary of the MOU, while secretariat functions are provided by the Signatories themselves (Argentina, Chile) in rotation.

83. A Bi-national Plan for the Conservation of the Huemul was signed by Argentina and Chile at the Sixth Bi-national Meeting of Ministers held in November 2012.

84. For Argentina the Dirección de Fauna Silvestre, Secretaria de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable Jefatura de Gabinete de Ministros reported its 2011-2014 activities:

- Scientific research and population monitoring in the regions of Neuquén and Chubut, as well as in the National Parks Los Alerces, Los Glaciares, Lago Puelo, Lanín, Nahuel Huapi and Perito Morena, including the development of new autopsy/necropsy protocols and installation of camera traps.
- Participatory education and awareness-raising activities in schools and communities, including the production of new brochures, updated webpages and the viewing of a Huemul documentary film.
- Capacity-building of governmental and non-governmental staff involved in huemul conservation through workshops and other forms of training.
- Implementation of the Bi-national Plan for the Conservation of the Huemul, including database development, data sharing and improved dog control.
- Development and implementation of recommendations for huemul-friendly infrastructure development and installation of fencing to stop cattle access to critical areas.
- Preparation of technical reports on the impact of hunting.
- New road signs indicating huemul presence within and outside relevant protected areas.
- Establishment of new protected area: “Parque Municipal Shoonem” (Chubut province).
- National legal and administrative implementation included accession of Neuquén province to the national action plan for huemul and improved livestock and dog management.

85. For 2015 Argentina plans to strengthen implementation of the Bi-national Action Plan, for example through the establishment of the transboundary “Nevados del Chillán-Lagunas de Epu Lauquen” corridor, the expansion of existing protected areas, continued exchange of data, establishment of various technical committees and production of outreach materials on Patagonian forest conservation.

86. The Chilean Executive Committee for the Conservation of the Huemul (CECH) reviewed the National Plan for the Conservation of the Huemul at its Meeting in January 2013.

87. The Chilean Regional Working Group (CONAF) reported its activities:

- Creation of the Inter-sectorial Commission for the Conservation of the Huemul and elaboration of a resolution to protect the Huemul.
- A survey was carried out in transboundary areas, overlapping with Argentina within the framework of the Bi-national Plan; tracks were found which confirmed the movement of the species between the two countries.
- Camera traps are being used to survey the Huemul in many protected areas.
- Campaigns to prevent car collisions with the Huemuls have been launched.
- Awareness raising programmes on the importance of protecting the species are being conducted in schools.

88. A documentary is being produced on the Huemul in both Chile and Argentina, called "Huemul, the Shadow of a Species".

West African Elephants

Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the West African Populations of the African Elephant (*Loxodonta africana*)

89. The CMS Secretariat provides the secretariat function for this MOU. As reported to the 40th Meeting of the Standing Committee, the plan for the CITES Programme on Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) to provide coordination services through its West Africa Office could not be implemented, owing to the closure of its West African Office.

90. The CMS and CITES Secretariats closely collaborate on elephants as outlined in the CMS CITES Joint Work Programme 2012-2014 (UNEP/CMS/StC38/Doc.3). As part of this collaboration the West African Elephant MOU will benefit from the new programme on "Minimizing the Illegal Killing of Elephants and other Endangered Species" (MIKES) funded by the EU with approximately €12 million, specifically in and around current MIKE sites in West Africa. This 50-month programme will strengthen law enforcement and ranger-based monitoring for elephants and other endangered species, building upon MIKE. CMS is one of the MEA partners assisting with implementation of MIKES and depending on current discussions the new MIKES may enable the programme once again to provide coordination services, which would be in line with Resolution 10.9, Activity 8.2.

91. In March, and December 2013, the Secretariat contacted all 13 Signatories to inform them about progress on the implementation of MOU and apprise them of related plans and needs for its further development including funding. While no responses were received for the first letter, seven Signatories (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger and Togo) responded to the second more detailed questionnaire.

92. The feedback indicates that MOU contact points are familiar with the MOU and that the implementation of the instrument is of high priority for the countries involved. However, due to the lack of human and financial resources it had generally not been possible to implement the targets of the MOU's Medium Term International Work Programme 2012-2014 (MTIWP). Regarding the challenges and needs for successful implementation, the

described key problem areas were congruent to a high degree. Most frequently highlighted were (a) the lack of capacity of national authorities and park management (71 per cent), (b) human-wildlife conflicts (71 per cent), (c) habitat destruction (57 per cent) and (d) insufficient involvement of relevant stakeholders (e.g. communities, foresters, police) (57 per cent). Additional issues such as poaching/illegal trafficking, lack of information on elephant population status and insufficient cross-border collaboration were mentioned as being relevant. All seven countries that responded identified capacity building (primarily technical) as a top priority need, followed by more effective outreach to key stakeholders, improvement of cross-border cooperation, research/monitoring of elephant populations, mitigation of human-wildlife conflict, habitat maintenance/restoration and implementation of effective anti-poaching measures.

93. Thanks to voluntary contributions from Monaco and support from the Direction Nationale des Eaux et Forêts (DNEF) in Mali, a project is currently being implemented through the Wild Foundation to strengthen community-based law enforcement and DNEF capacity in the transboundary Gourma elephant population. Further funds are urgently required to implement the Medium Term International Work Programme 2012-2014, with emphasis on the above-mentioned specific needs highlighted by Signatories. In 2015 the MTIWP is due to be updated.

94. Wildlife crime has been high on the agenda of the CMS Secretariat given the current elephant poaching crisis, including discussions with range states at the African Elephant Summit (2-4 December 2013, Gaborone, Botswana), meetings of the Steering Committee of the African Elephant Fund and contributions to the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW).

IV. REVIEW OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW AGREEMENTS, INCLUDING SPECIAL SPECIES INITIATIVES

AQUATIC SPECIES

The Loggerhead Turtle (*Caretta caretta*) in the South Pacific Ocean

95. Following a technical meeting in Brisbane, Australia in March 2014, a Single Species Action Plan for the Loggerhead Turtle (*Caretta caretta*) in the South Pacific Ocean has been prepared in cooperation with Range States and experts, and with financial support from the Australian Government. It is presented to the Parties for adoption in document UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.2.2.

AVIAN SPECIES

African Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan (AEMLAP)

96. Progress on development of the Action Plan foreseen in Resolution 10.27 on Improving the Conservation Status of Migratory Landbirds in the African Eurasian Region is covered in document UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.1.4.

Asian Houbara Bustard (*Chlamydotis undulata macqueenii*)

97. After a long process of development initiated by CMS COP4 (Nairobi, Kenya - 1994), a meeting to conclude an Agreement on the Conservation of the Asian Houbara Bustard was convened during CMS COP8 (Nairobi, Kenya – 2005). Range States agreed to submit further comments on the draft and also that a final meeting to conclude negotiations on the Agreement and associated Action Plan would be held no later than mid-2006. Subsequently, CMS COP9 (Rome, Italy - 2008), set a deadline of 2009 for opening the Agreement for signature. However, outstanding issues relating to the identification of a depositary and a host for the proposed Agreement's Secretariat remained unresolved by that date.

98. In 2014, due to the significant amount of time that had elapsed since the original inception of the draft Agreement, and the potential for significant changes in the status of the species during that period, the CMS Office – Abu Dhabi commissioned BirdLife International to undertake an independent technical review (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Inf.17). The main aim was to assess the current conservation status of the Asian Houbara Bustard (*Chlamydotis macqueenii*), now considered a full species (separate from the African Houbara Bustard (*Chlamydotis undulata*)) and classified as Vulnerable in the IUCN Red List. The review encompassed all 24 Range States and also sought to gather up-to-date information on the scope, severity and impact of threats throughout the range, and to review the extent of recent and ongoing activities contributing to the conservation and use of the species.

99. Subject to financial resources being secured, an Experts' Technical Workshop is proposed to be held involving representatives from all of the Range States (tentatively planned for 2016). The purpose would be to identify the most pressing actions required to support international conservation efforts for the species. Subsequently, Range State Governments and stakeholders will be invited to consider policy options, with a view to recommendations being submitted to CMS COP12 (scheduled to be held in 2017) on the most effective way in which CMS can promote and enhance international cooperation and collaboration to conserve the species and to ensure any future use is sustainable.

The Central Asian Flyway for Migratory Waterbirds (CAF)

100. On 12-13 December 2012 the Secretariat organized a meeting of the 30 Range States of the Central Asian Flyway in Abu Dhabi, back to back with the First Meeting of Signatories to the Raptors MOU. Delegates to the Meeting were invited to decide on options for a legal and institutional framework for CAF, namely, a) extending the geographical area of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) to encompass the entire CAF region and incorporating the CAF Waterbird Action Plan under the Agreement; or b) establishing the CAF Waterbird Action Plan as an independent international cooperative conservation framework outside the CMS Framework.

101. The 17 countries represented at the Meeting, as well as international organizations including Wetlands International and BirdLife International, adopted a Final Declaration indicating that “the preferred way forward to ensure effective implementation of the CAF Waterbird Action Plan is through its incorporation into AEWA and the expansion of the geographical area of the Agreement to encompass the entire CAF region”.

102. The Range States furthermore requested the Parties to AEWA to consider at their Sixth Session of the Meeting of the Parties to be held in 2015 the extension of the AEWA

geographical range to encompass the entire CAF region and incorporate the CAF Action Plan under the Agreement.

103. As a result of this Meeting, the CMS Secretariat in close cooperation with the AEWA Secretariat developed a study to assess the technical, institutional, legal and financial implications for AEWA if CAF is to be incorporated into the Agreement. With funding from the GIZ Regional Programme for Sustainable Use of Natural Resources in Central Asia, a consultant was contracted to undertake this work and present the findings to the AEWA MOP in 2015.

TERRESTRIAL SPECIES

The Argali Mountain Sheep (*Ovis ammon*)

104. A report on activities for enhancing the conservation of the argali including the Draft International Single Species Action Plan for the species are provided in document UNEP/CMS/COP11/23.3.3.

Central Eurasian Aridland Mammals

105. Progress made towards implementing the Concerted and Cooperative Actions on migratory mammals in Central Asia including the Draft Resolution on the Central Asian Mammals Initiative is covered in UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.3.1.

Snow Leopard (*Uncia uncia*)

106. In 20012, the Kyrgyz Government with support of with the World Bank initiated a process to enhance global Snow Leopard conservation, including the adoption of a Global Snow Leopard Ecosystem Conservation Programme (GSLEP) and a Declaration on Snow Leopard conservation at a global summit, which was held October 2013 in the Kyrgyz capital, Bishkek. In addition, the eleven Range States of the Snow Leopard were asked to develop National Snow Leopard Ecosystem Protection Priorities (NSLEP).

107. In December 2012, a first Global Snow Leopard Strategy Workshop took place in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, followed by a second meeting of range states and other stakeholders in March in the margins of the CITES COP16 in Bangkok, where countries discussed progress in the development of their NSLEPs. The Secretariat attended both meetings to ensure CMS provisions regarding Snow Leopard as a species listed on Appendix I were being taken into account. A third preparatory meeting took place in May in Moscow where *inter alia* the draft Declaration was discussed. Due to late issuance of the invitation, it was not possible to obtain the Russian visa in time and CMS was therefore not represented at the meeting.

108. The Secretariat took on the lead of the Global Support Component (GSC) on Transboundary Cooperation, which is part of the GSELP, and organized a session on that subject during the global summit in October. The Secretariat also wrote to each of the Snow Leopard Range States to ensure that the current work under CMS in Central Asia, including on the Argali which is a prey species of the snow leopard, is being taken into account and that options for synergies and mutual support are being effectively used.

109. In June 2014, the Secretariat participated in a GSLEP National Focal Points Action Planning, Leadership and Capacity Development Workshop, which took place in Kyrgyzstan, and organized a session on transboundary cooperation with involvement of various range states and other stakeholders. Through its engagement in the GSC, the Secretariat remains fully involved in the GSLEP implementation process. The Snow Leopard is also one of the species covered by the Central Asian Mammals Initiative (see document UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.3.1.).

Action Plan for the conservation and restoration of the Sahelo-Saharan antelopes

110. The most notable achievement during the last triennium regarding the implementation of the Action Plan from 1998 was the establishment in Niger in March 2013 of the Termit and Tin Toumma National Nature and Cultural Reserve, the largest protected area in Africa measuring 97,000 km². This area is particularly important for the last viable population of Addax (*Addax nasomaculatus*) and for the Dama gazelle (*Nanger dama*), but also for the conservation of Dorcas gazelle (*Gazella dorcas*), the Saharan cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) and the Barbary sheep (*Ammotragus lervia*), which are all listed for concerted/cooperative action (UNEP/CMS/Res.10.23). A management plan is now in place. This work has benefitted significantly from two implementation projects largely supported by the Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM) and the EU completed in December 2012 (respectively €1.3 million and €2.3 million). External audits have been conducted, the financial one is currently being carried out.

111. New projects supporting the Termit and Tin Toumma National Nature and Cultural Reserve have recently been approved by major funding agencies (France and the EU); aiming inter alia to identify and establish mitigation measures to minimize the impact of petroleum extraction in the Termit region and to assist in controlling poaching.

112. In Niger and Chad an additional transborder project has just been approved by the EU (2014), for an additional four years' support to contribute to the implementation of the Management Plan of the Termit-TinToumma protected area in Niger, and adjacent areas in Chad (€1.9 million).

113. In Chad the reintroduction of Scimitar-horned Oryx (*Oryx dammah*) in the Ouadi Rime-Ouadi Achim Reserve has been prepared during the last triennium through a collaborative effort between the Government of Chad, the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) and the Sahara Conservation Fund (SCF). The reintroduction of the Scimitar-horned Oryx which has become extinct in the wild is planned for 2015.

114. New data on the biodiversity of the Sahelo-Saharan region have now been gathered through the Pan Saharan Wildlife Survey, a project operated by the Sahara Conservation Fund with the support of EAD.

115. The Sahara Conservation Fund and more recently Noé Conservation, two dedicated and strong partners of the Action Plan, have been critical stakeholders in driving and coordinating these activities.

116. Funds are currently being sought to update the 1998 Action Plan, including the integration of IUCN Action Plans on Dama and Cuvier's gazelle, and to organize a meeting of Range States.

Central African Elephants (*Loxodonta africana*)

117. At COP10, the Secretariat presented a study: *Analysing Gaps and Options for Enhancing Elephant Conservation in Central Africa* (UNEP/CMS/Conf.10.46). It outlined three options to move forward.

118. Resolution 10.16 made no specific decisions relating to the way forward for this initiative, but stipulated a list of conditions to be addressed in developing new instruments. A key requirement was the need for a country or organization to be committed to leading the development process. In addition, Resolution 10.9 endorsed a list of activities, including as item 12.3: “create criteria against which to assess proposed new potential agreements”. Following on from this process, criteria for developing new agreements will be tabled at COP11 for adoption, which will directly impact options for conserving elephants in Central Africa within the CMS framework (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.22.2).

119. As reported to StC40, Cameroon indicated its willingness to take a leading role in moving forward with consultations within the region. To date, the Secretariat has not received any response from Cameroon regarding its enquires on this process.

Action requested:

The Conference of the Parties is invited to:

- (a) Take note of the progress in implementation of MOUs, Action Plans and Special Species Initiatives and note the funding constraints some of these face.
- (b) Give any further guidance to the Secretariat on the implementation of existing MOUs or instruments under development.