



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

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STRATEGY FOR THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONVENTION

1. Although the Secretariat had intended to produce an updated version of the *Strategy for the Future Development of the Convention* for submission to the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, it became apparent during preparations for the 15th meeting of the Standing Committee (Bonn, January 1997) that the document would require extensive revision in order to incorporate all of the developments over the past three years. The Standing Committee agreed that the Secretariat should instead prepare a more focussed document which examines progress in implementing the action points adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting (Nairobi, June 1994), and identifies the objectives which the Convention should seek to fulfil during the 1998-2000 triennium.
2. Accordingly, the Secretariat has prepared the document at Annex 1 to this paper, which in Part I, assesses the progress made on each of the 25 action points contained in Resolution 4.4; Part II outlines a number of general objectives and more specific actions to be undertaken in the forthcoming triennium. These are presented for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties with the expectation that some of them may need to be modified or withdrawn in the light of the substantive discussions that will take place in Geneva, and that the Conference of the Parties may wish to include additional points not raised in this working document.

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Strategy for the Future Development of the Convention

Part I: Implementation of the Action Points of Resolution 4.4 (Nairobi, June 1994)

Action Point 1

CMS should establish a partnership with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, with other post-UNCED bodies and with existing wildlife conventions. The CMS Secretariat should have a senior focal point for liaison with these bodies. Main action : Secretariat

1. The Secretariat concluded a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on 13 June 1996. Its implementation will require continual input by the respective secretariats, the Parties to both conventions, as well as the bodies established under the conventions. The Conference of the Parties (COP) to CBD decided in its second and third meetings that more synergy should be sought between CBD and other biodiversity-related conventions. In COP3 of the CBD (Buenos Aires, November 1996) CMS and its Parties have been invited to :
 - assist in the “development of co-operative arrangements at the scientific and technical level with appropriate biological diversity-related conventions and institutions” (*which is of relevance to the CMS Scientific Council*);
 - “evaluate how the implementation of ... (CMS) ... can complement the implementation of ... (CBD)... through its transboundary coordinated and concerted action on regional, continental and global scale” (*a task for the respective Convention secretariats*); and
 - explore opportunities for accessing funding through the Global Environment Facility for relevant projects, including projects involving a number of countries” (*important for CMS Parties*)

2. In February 1997, the Secretariat concluded a MoU with the secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (the Ramsar Bureau). This was, *inter alia*, in order to facilitate co-operation in matters of mutual concern, with particular reference to the implementation of the AEWA as requested by the negotiation meeting in its Final Act (The Hague, Netherlands, 16 June 1995). In May or June 1997, the Secretariats of CMS and the International Whaling Commission will begin consultations on a MoU. A mechanism for communication and co-operation may also be needed with the secretariats of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Desertification, the World Heritage Convention, as well as some regional conventions such as the Bern, Algiers, Apia, and Cartagena Conventions. Input should be made in the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development and further liaison should be made with the programme work of UNEP, UNDP and, to a certain extent, of FAO. Co-operation with all of these organizations on substantive matters has so far been very limited due to the Secretariat’s resource limitations.

Action Point 2

UNEP and the Standing Committee, with the active support of the Secretariat and Parties, should take the lead in initiating high-level political discussions to persuade potential Parties to join the Convention. On the basis of advice from the Scientific Council and the Secretariat, the Standing Committee should identify a target list of non-Party States on which recruitment efforts should be concentrated and report progress to the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting. The advice about each target State should,

if necessary, be supplemented by the use of outside consultants. Main action : UNEP, Parties, Standing Committee, Secretariat

1. The UNEP Governing Council in its 17th session (May 1993) adopted decision no. 17/12, "calling ... on Governments that have not yet done so to sign, ratify or accede to those international conventions in the field of the environment to which they are eligible to become parties". Similar appeals were made in the Governing Council's 18th and 19th sessions. Also, the Agreement of Understanding between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Inter-State Ecological Council, signed at Minsk, Belarus, in September 1994, mentions this issue as a priority for the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). However, the Secretariat has no information to indicate that UNEP has actively urged non-Party States to accede to CMS.
2. Members of the Standing Committee have made efforts to attract CMS to their counterparts in several non-Party countries. In particular, the German Minister of Environment made several approaches, *inter alia*, in the Ministerial segment of the CBD COP2 (Jakarta, Indonesia, November 1995) and in bilateral meetings. The responsible Ministry in the Netherlands has provided technical and financial assistance for nature conservation projects in several countries expressly under the expectation that the countries would accede to CMS and/or the AEWA.
3. The Secretariat has invested considerable time and energy to urge focal points in non-Party countries to propose their Government's accession or ratification to CMS and/or related Agreements. In addition, it has developed with the assistance of the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) profiles for 18 countries aimed at giving evidence of the importance of those countries for migratory species, as well as the rationale for joining CMS. The profiles for Turkey and Brazil have already been sent to the responsible ministries in those countries for consideration, while the other profiles are pending final review by the Secretariat.

Action Point 3

The Secretariat should prepare and update information material, including brochures, posters, videos, mobile displays, a Convention Directory, and regular bulletins. Such material should be used both to promote implementation in existing Party States and to promote the Convention to potential new Parties. Individual Parties should be encouraged to produce information materials for national or regional audiences, with financial assistance for this purpose provided from the core budget in case of need. Main Action : Secretariat, Parties

1. Despite considerable efforts, the Secretariat has not yet succeeded in recruiting a permanent, experienced Information Officer. Therefore, the development of information material, as requested by the COP, has been delayed. The Secretariat has nonetheless developed a "CMS guide" with updated information about CMS, its aims, instruments and state of implementation – aimed at an audience interested in the mechanics and legal aspects of the Convention. The more general CMS brochure is now outdated and must be revised. Production and dissemination of the regular "CMS Bulletin" has also been resumed. Limited progress has been made towards the compilation of a CMS Directory, although it will not be possible to finalise it by the COP5. A video on Siberian crane conservation efforts is presently being produced by the International Crane Foundation with CMS financial support and technical input from the Secretariat.
2. The Secretariat has provided several CMS focal points with information material for presenting CMS in various regions and has offered to supply members of the Standing Committee with a set of overheads which are sometimes used by members of the Secretariat. This material will be refined in the future, and the CMS Focal points and Scientific Councillors may, on request, be supplied with it. The fact that the Secretariat still has not received from the Depository a presentable certified text of the Convention in the Arabic, Chinese, English, French, and Russian languages continues to be cause for concern.
3. A number of Parties have taken the initiative to produce CMS information materials of their own. Examples which the Secretariat can recommend to the Parties as models are (1) the poster exhibition which the Saudi Arabian CMS focal point has produced in Arabic and has brought to

attention of Arabic country representatives on several occasions, and (2) the beautiful poster and newsletter “Migratoria” produced by the South African Department of Environment and Tourism. The Secretariat would like to extend its efforts to produce the requested information material. It would, however, also urge Parties and specialised NGOs to initiate activities of this nature.

Action Point 4

A consultancy should investigate the options for providing support other than direct financial assistance to countries which may require it to join or implement the Convention. The report should be submitted to the Standing Committee. Main Action: Secretariat

The Secretariat did not have the capacity to develop terms of reference and to seek a consultant for this purpose. However, it made several practical approaches to support countries that had indicated a sincere interest to join CMS and relevant Agreements, e.g. by offering young professionals to visit the Secretariat as interns for a limited period of time, recommending to bilateral funding agencies the financing of projects which have a direct concern to the conservation of migratory species, and offering support to governmental bodies responsible for the development of the proposals for accession to the Convention. All these efforts, however, have been constrained by the limited capacity of the Secretariat, and for this reason it does not recommend to pursue this action further.

Action Point 5

The Secretariat should work together with each new Party to discuss implementation of the Convention. Main Action : Secretariat

1. Although the Secretariat had intended to arrange a visit to each new Party to CMS in order to discuss and advise as to how to begin implementation of the Convention (and, if applicable, relevant Agreements), it has not been possible yet to take action in this regard due to other priorities.
2. It would be helpful to develop standard documentation containing advice as to what action has to or should be taken by new Parties to implement CMS and the relevant Agreements - including legislation, enforcement, institutional arrangements, liaison with or integrated implementation of various biodiversity-related conventions, and the requirements for communication and cooperation with the bodies of the Convention (and Agreements). A list of the basic commitments of a Party is annexed to the “CMS Guide”. However, this needs to be elaborated further. In addition, the Secretariat would like to initiate, in the medium term, the development of guidelines for the transformation into national legislation (and implementation) of the Convention’s provisions for the protection of Appendix I species. On a longer term, it would be useful for an agency or organisation to assist new Parties – or at least developing countries in need of assistance – to begin implementation of CMS/Agreements.

Action Point 6

The Scientific Council should identify species (or populations) for which concerted action by Range States is a high priority. Main Action : Scientific Council

1. During the sixth meeting of the Scientific Council, a list of high priority species and/or taxonomic groups were identified. They are, in no particular order: Sahelo-Saharan mammals, Great bustard, Houbara bustard, Mediterranean monk seal, White-headed duck, Ruddy-headed goose, Siberian crane and Slender-billed curlew. Taking into account this list, after further discussions and keeping with the general framework agreed by the Standing Committee, the Scientific Council prepared a document recommending how the USD500,000 set aside for concerted actions by the COP ought to be allocated. This proposed allocation was subsequently endorsed by the Standing Committee. The “umbrella” includes USD175,000 for marine turtles, USD100,000 for small cetaceans/marine mammals, USD125,000 for migratory birds, USD50,000 for other mammals and USD50,000 for contingency.

2. Various activities have been developed, in cooperation with the concerned Parties and/or Scientific Councillors. Projects and activities concerning Sahelo-Saharan mammals, Ruddy-headed goose, Slender-billed curlew, Siberian crane, Houbara bustard, albatrosses, cetaceans, sea turtles and neotropical species are under way, under review or have been completed. Of the \$500,000 allocated for concerted actions the situation is the following: six projects have been concluded (\$125,000); four are underway (\$135,000) and eight projects are under review (\$95,000); leaving about \$150,000 available. It is expected that these remaining funds will be expended or committed by the end of 1997.
3. Among the best ways of demonstrating the effectiveness of the Convention and of attracting new Parties is through concerted conservation actions (e.g catalytic support for well-designed projects) and the organization focussed workshops, in particular for Appendix I species. During a CMS meeting with South American countries held in Valdivia, Chile, in December 1996, the participants emphasized the value of these projects for developing countries. With additional professional staff, the Secretariat would be in a better position to encourage other organizations to carry out projects for concerted actions. If the umbrella fund is replenished or if other funding possibilities are identified, this will encourage more activities in developing countries that are Parties and will stimulate non-Parties to join CMS.

Action Point 7

The Scientific Council should review Appendix II of the Convention to assess the potential for new Agreements and to consider whether any additional species should be added to the Appendix. Main Action : Scientific Council

1. The Scientific Council agreed that potential candidates for inclusion in Appendix II are: seals, certain raptor populations in Central/South Asia, cranes, and storks, ibises and spoonbills, but considered the latter to be a low priority group. Groups proposed for the potential development of new Agreements were: small cetaceans and dugongs in Southeast Asia, albatrosses, Asian-Pacific waterbirds, neotropical species, bustards, seals, raptors, cranes and storks, ibises and spoonbills. Only some of these species have been proposed for inclusion in Appendix II.
2. In general terms it was agreed that: (1) it is necessary to prioritize species to be considered for addition to Appendix II according to the urgency of preparing Agreements for them; (2) the Council should agree broad geographical areas and species groups likely to be in need of Agreements and then seek the views of the IUCN/SSC and/or other specialized organizations as to the conservation status of the species involved; and (3) the Council should continue to use the expertise of existing Councillors (if required) to develop new Agreements, however, should it be necessary then one new Councillor might be appointed to supplement the expertise in new subject areas.
3. Activities performed in the 1995-1997 towards the elaboration of new Agreements have included the following:
 - a technical meeting for the Houbara bustard was held in Oman in January 1996, and a revised draft agreement prepared by the National Commission for Wildlife Conservation and Development of Saudi Arabia is nearly ready to be circulated
 - all remaining species of albatross have been proposed for inclusion in the CMS Appendices, laying the ground for an Agreement for this threatened group of seabirds
 - participation in an international workshop organized in Kushiro, Japan in December 1994 to promote a complementary waterbird Agreement along the lines of the AEWPA, and contribution to an Asia-Pacific waterbird conservation strategy being developed by Wetlands International Asia-Pacific.

- financial support for regional workshops on sea turtles (South Africa, November 1995, and India, January 1997) and small cetaceans (Malaysia/Philippines, May 1996) bringing together specialists and government officials in order to foster regional co-operation which, if appropriate, might be formalized at a later stage.
- during a meeting organized by the Secretariat and the regional Parties and non-Parties in December 1996 in Chile, small cetaceans in the South Atlantic, waterbirds in the Puna region, and waterbirds in southern South America were identified as groups of interest for potential agreements.

Action Point 8

Further migratory species should be proposed for listing on Appendix I if they are endangered, and for listing on Appendix II if they would significantly benefit from an Agreement. Assistance should be made available, if needed, to developing countries wishing to submit proposals. Main Action : Parties, Scientific Council, Secretariat

1. The Scientific Council decided to review Appendix I in two phases: first, those taxa which had previously been dealt with in some form under the Convention; followed by those taxa which had not yet been considered by the Convention. The first phase, which should be initiated soon, is proposed to be done through a consultancy with WCMC. Contacts must be maintained with the Parties to ensure that the necessary amendments to Appendix I arising from the review are presented for the COP 6.
2. Prior to COP5, the Secretariat contacted a number of Parties interested in submitting proposals for inclusion of species in the Appendices. In total, 41 species from nearly 20 families have been proposed for inclusion, 22 to Appendix I, 22 to Appendix II (including three proposed for both Appendices). As part of this listing process, the Secretariat in co-operation with Parties from South America and Dr. Roberto Schlatter reviewed potential candidates among neotropical species in a meeting held in Montevideo, Uruguay in May 1996. As a result, 14 neotropical species were proposed for inclusion: 9 of them in Appendix I and 5 in Appendix II.

Action Point 9

The Scientific Council should continue to commission reviews of selected Appendix I species identified by the Conference of the Parties in order to provide a sound basis for conservation actions. The Council should report to the Conference of the Parties with recommendations for any further measures to be taken by Parties with respect to the species concerned. Main Action: Scientific Council

The main activities conducted with respect to Appendix I species have been the so-called concerted actions, and the projects are mentioned above under Action Point 6. These activities are stimulating recommendations for further measures to be taken by Parties.

Action Point 10

The Standing Committee shall appoint a consultancy under line 1200 of the Trust Fund budget to assist developing countries to prepare more comprehensive proposals for submission to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and to support small scale pilot projects. The Scientific Council should advise the Standing Committee as appropriate on the selection and geographical distribution of such projects. The maximum support available via consultancy support for any single project would normally not exceed \$ 15,000 without the express authority of the Chairman of the Standing Committee. The total resources allocated in the triennium 1995-1997 for this activity will be \$ 130,000. This amount may be

increased if there is any voluntary contribution for this activity to a certain project. Main Action : Secretariat, Standing Committee

The Standing Committee agreed, at its 14th meeting, that in the light of the limited resources of the Secretariat, this activity should be postponed indefinitely.

Action Point 11

The Conference of the Parties should continue to make provision in the core budget to assist developing countries with expenditures related to CMS meetings. Main Action : COP, Secretariat

An account of assistance provided to developing country delegates will be provided either in the Secretariat's report to the Conference of the Parties or in the documents pertaining to financial and administrative matters.

Action Point 12

All Parties should be encouraged to submit reports well before each meeting of the Conference of the Parties. An analysis of reports submitted by Parties should be prepared before each meeting. The Secretariat should request more detailed information from Parties if reports are insufficient. All information received should continue to be stored in a computer database. The Secretariat should, subject to availability of resources, compile scientific data on migratory species from other sources and may include this in their overview report, provided that this has been properly verified and the Party States given the opportunity to comment in advance of its inclusion. Main Action : Parties, Secretariat

1. It is evident that only a limited number of Parties arrive at submitting their reports well in advance of the meetings of the COP as requested by the Convention. Although the number of Parties which submit reports has increased several Parties still have never prepared an account of their implementation of the Convention.
2. A comprehensive evaluation of the country reports goes far beyond the current capacity of the Secretariat. It would therefore be more appropriate for an organization specialised in such matters to be engaged on a permanent basis to review and evaluate the reports and to prepare a comprehensive report for the COP on the status and population trends of the relevant species as well as conservation measures undertaken by the Parties and non-Party Range States, using also information from other sources. Such an approach could serve also to synergise (and economise) the reporting system under CMS and the growing number of Agreements concluded under its auspices. This would, in addition meet the requirements expressed in the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity to harmonise the reporting commitments under the various biodiversity-related conventions.

Action Points 13 and 14

The Secretariat should act primarily as a catalyst for the elaboration of new Agreements rather than providing ongoing support to existing ones; its capacity to facilitate the development of new Agreements should be strengthened. Main Action : Secretariat, Standing Committee, UNEP

Parties should be urged to take the lead in developing and/or sponsoring Agreements and to host interim secretariats; sponsors should specify clearly to the Standing Committee how they intend to proceed in this regard. Developed Party States, whether or not they are Range States, should be urged to sponsor initiatives of developing countries. Main Action : Parties to Agreements

1. The experience gained in the past five years shows clearly that only a concerted approach by a lead

country and the Secretariat with the support of the Standing Committee and the Scientific Council can lead to fruitful results. Therefore the Secretariat's capacity to facilitate the development of new Agreements needs further strengthening, but also the Standing Committee and the Scientific Council should encourage Parties to develop initiatives and urge them to become more active.

2. Too few countries appear willing to take the lead in the development of further Agreements. The elaboration and conclusion of Agreements for those species already listed in Appendix II would require decades if the initiative of countries to take the lead remains as scarce as it is. In addition, it is evident that a successful recovery of Appendix I species also requires a concerted and co-operative approach by their Range States, since national measures are not sufficient. So far no industrialized country has offered to sponsor a developing country which might take the lead to elaborate an Agreement, nor has any developing country taken such an initiative on its own. Nonetheless, it is worth mentioning that a few countries have begun to develop Article IV (4) agreements for species or populations which have a small migration range and which cross a relatively small number of international boundaries. These initiatives are encouraging and merit duplication by other Parties.
3. It is vital for the successful implementation of the Convention that the Agreements concluded under its auspices make visible progress. The Secretariat will be increasingly burdened with administrative work in relation to the implementation of Agreements and MoUs. If Parties and non-Party Range States to the Convention abstain from membership in and active contribution to the Agreements, the capacity of the Secretariat to compensate and deal with a heavier workload must be increased.

Action Point 15

Agreements should continue to be developed as legally binding instruments. Recommendations and memoranda of understanding should be used where necessary to conserve species through non-binding instruments linked to the Convention. Main Action : Parties, Secretariat

During the triennium, one new Agreement was developed as a legally binding instrument: the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS). Resolutions 2.6 and 3.5 (Geneva, 1988 and 1991) should remain in effect as their content is still valid.

Action Point 16

Future Agreements should incorporate the "precautionary principle" and should also provide for the sustainable use of species where this is consistent with their conservation. Main Action : Parties to Agreements

Both principles are established in the Convention text, and they will be mentioned in the Guidelines for the Harmonisation of Future Agreements.

Action Point 17

Secretariats for individual Agreements should be financed entirely by their Parties, except when the membership is such that financial support from the Convention is essential in the early stages of development. Main Action : Parties to Agreements, Secretariat, Standing Committee

This proposal is self-explanatory and is already taken into account in the Agreement secretariats established so far.

Action Points 18 and 19

Parties to Agreements should be invited to consider consolidating secretariat functions for one or more Agreements in regional centres which would facilitate links to the CMS Secretariat. Main Action : Parties to Article IV Agreements.

The Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Bats in Europe, the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas (ASCOBANS) and other European Agreements under the Convention should be invited to consolidate secretariat functions in a special Agreements Unit co-located with the Secretariat of the Convention. Main Action : Parties to European Agreements

The concept of co-location of secretariats is treated in document UNEP/CMS/Conf.5.14.1

Action Point 20

Additional measures should be taken to encourage Parties to pay their contributions to the Trust Fund. In particular, annual invoices should be sent to all Parties by the end of the preceding year to which they apply; outstanding contributions prior to 1991 and totalling up to \$5000 should be forgiven by the Standing Committee on condition that the Parties take steps to pay all subsequent subscriptions; the rules of procedure should be amended to remove voting rights from Parties which are three years behind with their subscriptions at the time of the Conference of the Parties; and Parties which are two years behind with their subscriptions should be ineligible for the assistance under Priority 10 above. Main Action : Secretariat, Standing Committee

Annual invoices have been sent by UNEP in recent years and the records of the Secretariat show a marginal improvement in the payment of the subscriptions of the Parties (at the time of writing, 85% of the pledges for 1996 had been received). The amnesty for outstanding contributions brought some, but not full success. The amnesty should not be offered again in the foreseeable future so as not to give Parties an incentive to withhold their contributions in anticipation of relief at a later date. The amendment of the rules of procedure to remove voting rights from Parties which are three years behind with their subscriptions will be decided by the COP at its fifth meeting. The ineligibility for assistance under Action Point 10 for Parties which are two years behind with their subscriptions is relevant only if this action will be extended to the next triennium.

Action Point 21

The personnel of the Secretariat should be augmented within the extent of available financial resources to improve delivery of services in relation to technical and scientific matters, and developmental and organizational activities; the geographic and linguistic balance within the Secretariat must be improved in order to strengthen its capacity in regions not adequately represented. Main Action : UNEP

The strengthening of the Secretariat on the basis of the budget decision of COP4 is not yet consolidated. A series of new tasks, the steadily growing number of Parties, increasing interest of non-Party Range States as well as international and national institutions and organisations in CMS matters require a further strengthening of the Secretariat. Also, the encouraging results of the activities of the Programme Officer acting *inter alia* as the regional officer for a large global region, warrants reflection as to whether similar posts for other important regions, namely Africa and Asia, should be established through secondment.

Action Point 22

Meetings of the Conference of the Parties should be held at intervals of roughly 2 ½ to 3 years; and Parties should be encouraged to host them in order to raise the profile of CMS in other regions. Main Action : Secretariat

The present meeting is being held at an interval of 2½ years, and it is proposed that COP6 be held at a similar interval.

Action Point 23

Standing Committee members should actively promote CMS in their respective regions. Meetings of the Committee will have simultaneous interpretation in English, French and Spanish. The Chairs of the

Standing Committee and Scientific Council should have reciprocal observer status at their respective meetings. Main Action : Standing Committee, Secretariat

The Standing Committee Chairman is expected to provide a report on the Committee's activities (Document UNEP/CMS/Conf. 5.5.2). Simultaneous interpretation in English, French and Spanish is now provided for in Rule 27 of the Standing Committee's Rules of Procedure and has, in any case, been provided at all meetings of the Committee held in recent years, courtesy of the German Government. The Standing Committee at its 15th meeting (Bonn, January 1997) introduced observer status for the Chairperson of the Scientific Council in paragraph 10 of its Rules of Procedure.

Action Point 24

The Scientific Council may meet in mid-term between meetings of the Conference of the Parties, in addition to meeting before the Conference of the Parties. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided whenever possible. Parties should have the option of appointing an alternate representative to the Council. Main Action : Scientific Council, Secretariat

A mid-term meeting of the Scientific Council was held (Bonn, November 1995), and it was possible to provide simultaneous English, French and Spanish interpretation for the meeting. Few Parties have acted on the option of appointing an alternate representative to the Scientific Council, possibly due to unfamiliarity with the particular provision contained in Resolution 4.5.

Action Point 25

Specialized non-governmental organizations should be encouraged to play a more active role in the Convention, particularly by providing scientific advice, assisting in promotional activities and implementing projects for migratory species. The Secretariat should hold at least one intersessional meeting with NGOs, and individual Parties should also consult and, where appropriate, make use of NGOs in implementing the convention. Main Action : NGOs, Secretariat, Parties

As reported in more detail in document 5.5.1, work relations with a number of NGOs were strengthened during the triennium, as far as the Secretariat's resources allowed. However, some conservation organizations continued to show little apparent interest in the Convention's activities. The Secretariat was unable, due to its limited personnel capacity, to organize the meeting that was called for in this action point.

Part II: Draft action points for the 1998-2000 triennium

OBJECTIVE 1: ENHANCE MEMBERSHIP IN CMS THROUGH TARGETED PROMOTION OF THE CONVENTION'S AIMS

- 1.1 Parties, UNEP and the Standing Committee, with the active support of the Secretariat, should intensify efforts to persuade potential Parties to join the Convention and related Agreements. First priority should be given, but efforts not necessarily limited, to the key countries for which "country profiles" have been already been developed according to biological criteria:

(Parties, UNEP, Standing Committee, Secretariat)

- 1.2 The Secretariat should expedite preparation and updating of information material, including brochures, posters, videos, mobile displays, a Convention Directory, and regular bulletins. Parties are encouraged to provide technical assistance and funds if the core budget does not suffice. Such material should be used both to promote awareness and implementation of CMS in existing Party States and to promote the Convention to potential new Parties. Individual Parties should produce information materials for national or regional audiences. Consideration should be given to

undertaking a major information campaign, in concert with non-governmental organizations, well in advance of the Convention's 20th anniversary in 1999.
(*Secretariat, Parties, NGOs*)

OBJECTIVE 2: INTENSIFY CONSERVATION INITIATIVES IN REGIONS UNDER-REPRESENTED IN CMS

- 2.1 The Convention's presence in Africa and Asia-Oceania should be strengthened with a view to encouraging regional co-operation for migratory species conservation. As in the case of Latin America, where the appointment of a Programme Officer from the region has helped to stimulate regional initiatives, Parties should be encouraged to second personnel to CMS in order to facilitate governmental and non-governmental contacts and to improve programme delivery within Africa and Asia-Oceania. The Secretariat should be more pro-active in its efforts to promote conservation initiatives in co-operation with regional bodies.
(*Parties, Secretariat*)
- 2.2 In Africa, the emphasis should be on supporting activities that are just getting off the ground, such as the recently concluded African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement, as well as preliminary work on marine turtles and cetaceans in coastal waters.
(*Parties, Secretariat*)
- 2.3 In Asia-Oceania, CMS should continue to support and provide input to the *Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy (1996-2000)*, which may lead in the future to a more formal multilateral agreement among States of the region, and to take an active role in the development of a conservation initiative for migratory waterbirds of the Central Asian-Indian flyway. In addition, CMS should play a more prominent role in regional co-operation for marine turtle conservation, where other bodies are not already active, and should continue to support essential research on cetaceans.
(*Parties, Secretariat*)

OBJECTIVE 3: FACILITATE AND IMPROVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

- 3.1 The Secretariat should work together with each new Party, as soon as possible after their accession to CMS, to advise, answer queries and offer suggestions as regards implementation of the Convention. It should, through a consultancy, develop guidelines on legislation and implementation and other useful material, in order to give guidance to new Parties on CMS and its associated Agreements.
(*Secretariat, individual Parties*)
- 3.2 Parties as well as non-Party States, including regional economic integration organisations, should provide sufficient funds for the implementation of the Convention and of Agreements concluded under its auspices, both domestically and for transboundary co-operation and concerted action. Developed countries should channel adequate funds to projects for the implementation of CMS and Agreements in developing countries and countries in economic transition. Also, they should encourage non-governmental organisations to target their project work, *inter alia*, towards the implementation of CMS and Agreements.
- 3.3 All Parties should be encouraged to submit reports on their implementation of CMS well before each meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP). An analysis of reports submitted by Parties should be prepared before each meeting. The Secretariat should engage a specialised organisation

on a permanent basis to review and evaluate the reports and to prepare a comprehensive report for the COP on the status and population trends for the relevant species, and conservation measures undertaken by the Parties and non-Party Range States, using also information from other sources.

A proposal should be developed and submitted to the COP6, as well as to the Meetings of the Parties of the Agreements concluded under CMS, to harmonise the various reports with a view to a) making those reports more substantial, b) providing the COP with appropriate information on the implementation of the Convention and c) making an input to the Convention on Biological Diversity with respect to the conservation of migratory species.

(Parties, Secretariat)

OBJECTIVE 4: DEVELOP AGREEMENTS ACCORDING TO REGIONAL PRIORITIES

4.1 Activities to lay basis for the identification and development of new Agreements should be continued and intensified, as far as resources are available. Parties, including regional economic integration organisations, should take the lead in developing and/or sponsoring Agreements and in hosting interim secretariats; sponsors should specify clearly to the Standing Committee how they intend to proceed in this regard. Developed Party States, whether or not they are Range States, should be encouraged to facilitate initiatives of developing countries by providing technical, scientific and financial assistance on request. The Secretariat's capacity to assist in the development of new Agreements should be strengthened.

(COP, Parties, Scientific Council, Secretariat)

4.2 Support to existing Agreements (including Memoranda of Understanding) should be provided by the Secretariat to the extent these activities contribute significantly to the conservation of the species concerned and help to raise the profile of the Convention.

(Secretariat)

OBJECTIVE 5: PRIORITIZE CONSERVATION ACTIONS FOR MIGRATORY SPECIES

5.1 Priority should continue to be given to actions for Appendix I species (or populations). The Scientific Council should recommend to the Conference of the Parties or Standing Committee, as appropriate, concerted measures to be taken by Parties in respect of selected species. The Secretariat, in consultation with the Scientific Council, should promote the development of cost-effective projects, in particular those intended to have a direct benefit for Appendix I species.

(Scientific Council, Secretariat)

5.2 In the case of critically endangered species listed in Appendix I, Parties should designate protected areas, in close co-operation with other Range States and taking into account commitments under other international instruments, so that a network of critical sites is established throughout the migration route of the species concerned.

(Parties)

5.3 The CMS Appendices should be reviewed and improved continually in order to assure their scientific integrity and value for conservation purposes.

(Scientific Council)

OBJECTIVE 6: MOBILIZE FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR CONSERVATION INITIATIVES

- 6.1 The Secretariat, with the assistance of the Standing Committee, should develop closer relations with multilateral agencies operating on a global and/or regional level that provide development assistance for projects which: a) may affect migratory species covered by CMS or b) could include migratory species as a component of a broader conservation strategy.
(*Secretariat, Standing Committee*)

OBJECTIVE 7: RATIONALIZE INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

- 7.1 Secretariats for individual Agreements should be financed entirely by their Parties, except when the membership is such that financial support from the Convention is essential in the early stages of development. In addition, Parties to the respective Agreements should provide substantial voluntary support to facilitate the administration and effective implementation of the Agreement.
(*Parties to Agreements, Secretariat, Standing Committee*)
- 7.2 In keeping with the model adopted for Europe, Parties to Agreements developed in other regions should consider consolidating secretariat functions for one or more Agreements in regional centres which would facilitate links to the CMS Secretariat and, where appropriate, to existing organisations specialised in the conservation of migratory species.
(*Parties to Agreements*)
- 7.3 The personnel of the Secretariat should be augmented as far as financial resources permit to improve delivery of services in relation to technical and scientific matters, developmental and organizational activities, and liaison with other biodiversity-related conventions and organisations. The geographic and linguistic balance within the Secretariat should be improved in order to strengthen its capacity in regions not adequately represented. Regional officers for Africa and Asia should be recruited through secondment. Parties should assign to the Secretariat, at their own cost for periods of at least one year, personnel capable of undertaking specialized tasks that would otherwise not be possible to carry out.
(*Parties, Secretariat, UNEP*)

OBJECTIVE 8: STRENGTHEN INSTITUTIONAL LINKAGES

- 8.1 CMS should strengthen or establish new partnerships with the institutions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and with other biodiversity-related conventions, regional agreements and programmes *inter alia* by:
- (a) implementing the MoU concluded between the secretariats of CBD and CMS (*Secretariat, Parties*);
 - (b) intensifying communication and consultations with other conventions and institutions, relevant for, *inter alia*, the conservation of migratory species (*Secretariat*);
 - (c) intensifying, as a priority, the linkages with CBD and GEF in order to implement the relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties to CBD, as well as developing pilot projects which demonstrate (i) the complementarity of CMS in the implementation of CBD and (i) the basic need to fill the gap in the funding mechanism of GEF for biodiversity-related projects;
 - (d) nominating a focal point from both the Standing Committee and the Scientific Council to communicate with the respective bodies of the institutions mentioned above, to participate in their meetings and to report back to the CMS bodies (*Standing Committee, Scientific Council*); and

For this reason, it is proposed that the COP provide for the establishment of a Programme Officer post to assist with the Secretariat's liaison with CBD, other biodiversity-related conventions and post-UNCED organisations (e.g. the CSD, UNFCCC, and Desertification Convention) and with other UN organisations, in a broader sense, in matters of common concern – where until now there has been minimal interaction.

- 8.2 The Standing Committee should negotiate with UNEP (through its Governing Council) on support for the implementation of CMS (as already promised in 1994) and the inclusion of some of the strategy action points in its programme of work. UNEP should also actively support the recruitment of new Parties and the establishment of partnerships with the institutions mentioned above. (*Parties, Standing Committee, Secretariat*).
- 8.3 Specialized non-governmental organizations should be encouraged to play a more active role in the Convention, particularly by providing scientific advice, assisting in promotional activities and implementing projects for migratory species. The Secretariat should hold at least one intersessional meeting with NGOs, and individual Parties should also consult and, where appropriate, make use of NGOs in implementing the Convention.
NGOs, Secretariat, Parties