



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

Distr: General

UNEP/CMS/AEBOP/Report
Annex 5

Original: English

MEETING TO CONCLUDE THE MEMORANDUM OF
UNDERSTANDING ON THE CONSERVATION OF
MIGRATORY BIRDS OF PREY UNDER THE
CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 20-22 October 2008

REPORT OF THE FINANCIAL WORKING GROUP (FWG)

The considerations below need to be looked at in the context of the establishment of an Interim Co-ordinating Unit (ICU) which will be established immediately after the conclusion of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and associated Action Plan (AP) and which will operate until the establishment of a permanent Co-ordinating Unit at the First Meeting of Signatories.

The role of the Co-ordinating Unit (CU)

It was agreed the CU should:

- Establish communication with contact points in Range States and maintain a list of those contact points;
- Receive and assess appropriate national strategies and documents (article 11 of the MoU);
- Provide an appropriate reporting format;
- Encourage synergies and work cooperatively with other agreements and international organisations;
- Encourage Range States to sign the MoU;
- Encourage other international agreements to contribute to the implementation of the Action Plan;
- Prepare for the First Meeting of Signatories;
- Prepare an overview of the MoU's progress for the First Meeting of Signatories

The Environment Agency of Abu Dhabi has indicated that it is prepared to host and finance, the Co-ordinating Unit (CU) for this MoU in combination with those for Dugong and Indian Ocean Sea Turtles. Although the proposal is for the next three years, the representative of the United Arab Emirates stressed that the offer is a continued commitment.

- There was agreement that the offer of UAE is sufficient for these tasks
- We recognised the long term commitment of the UAE in this respect
- There was agreement that the MoU text would need to be changed in order to reflect the establishment of an Interim Co-ordinating Unit.

Funding mechanisms for implementing the Action Plan

The Working Group emphasized that contributions to the implementation of the Action Plan can only be voluntary in nature, but agreed:

- That voluntary contributions should be sought with Signatories and Range States using internal budgeting procedures to determine their level of contribution (there would be no indicative scale of payments although the UN scale could be one mechanism to assess contributions);
- The ICU will endeavour to promote fundraising, by any friendly environmental means, including business and private sector in general;
- That the ICU will need to prioritise AP activities and monitor progress against targets;
- That the ICU, in consultation with Range States, would assist Signatories/Range States in identifying projects that would address the Action Plan main priorities and prioritise those projects that would assist the conservation of species at a transboundary level, noting that these could include local, national or regional projects;
- It was important that proposed projects looked for synergies with other agreements;
- There should be a Project Matrix webpage so that Signatories/Range States could check ongoing projects or where there was a need for a new one;
- Initial use should be made of the ICU's Small Grant Fund for the clarification of projects required.