



# Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme



## 36th Meeting of the Standing Committee

Bonn, Germany, 2-3 December 2009

CMS/StC36/17/Rev.1

Agenda Item 10.b

### RESULTS OF COP9 QUESTIONNAIRE

*Prepared by the CMS Secretariat*

1. During the final session of the Ninth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties held in Rome in December 2008, the Secretariat distributed a questionnaire in English, French and Spanish to record the impressions and suggestions of delegates and other participants. The questionnaires, that were completed and returned to the Secretariat, thus reflect participants' views of the meeting's conduct and organisation. The outcome serves as a basis for improvement of future CMS meetings and events.

2. The results of the COP8 questionnaire (CMS/StC31/15) were taken into account in the preparation of the Ninth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The present document is also intended to integrate further lessons learned into the preparation for COP10.

#### **Registration and document distribution**

3. Almost 80% of the respondents to the survey were content about service and assistance provided at registration. Participants' conference packs, containing information on logistics and events were considered quite good, but there was room for improvement. While the system for delivering documents (CMS website, memory stick, selected hard copies) was overall welcomed and the publication of pre-session documents was considered satisfactory, participants were not content with the distribution of in-session documents, especially regarding the limited use of countries' pigeon holes.

#### **Progress made by the CMS Secretariat since COP8:**

- *Established internal deadlines for preparation and release of all pre-session documents enabling participants to examine them prior to the meeting.*
- *Established deadline for Resolutions (not only internal)*
- *Ensured availability of cybercafé and proper internet connections and plugs for participants' laptops inside and outside the meeting rooms allowing them to work on documents on site.*

#### **Follow-up for CMS Secretariat:**

- *Identify a formula to avoid large-scale document reproduction and resultant time-consuming distribution; promote electronic document distribution (e.g. paper-free Conference).*

*For reasons of economy, documents are printed in a limited number, and will not be distributed at the meeting. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copy to the meeting and not to request additional copies.*

## **In-session**

4. Overall, participants appreciated the organisation of the sessions. Many respondents however made comments on potential improvement of coordination of sessions and better time management, including a clearer distinction between Plenary and COW sessions, shorter presentations and timely distribution of revised papers. Assistance by the CMS Secretariat was judged on average more than good. Many participants highlighted that staff members were very supportive and helpful. Interpretation was considered excellent or good by over 90% of the respondents.

### **Progress made by CMS Secretariat since COP8:**

- *Numerous working group meetings*
- *Extensive side events programme*

### **Follow-up for CMS Secretariat:**

- *Plan carefully the organisation of sessions. Avoid overlap of plenary and working group sessions.*

## **Quality of documents**

5. Respondents were fully satisfied with the quality and translation of pre-session documents, as well as final draft recommendations and resolutions. The major difficulty identified related to the late availability of some in-session document revisions, translations and hard copies. Better management of delivery of in-session documents appeared to be crucial. To facilitate this, working groups should be convened as early as possible during the next COP.

### **Follow-up for CMS Secretariat:**

- *Establish a maximum number of in-session revisions in order to enable the Secretariat to revise, translate, reproduce and distribute them as necessary.*
- *The Secretariat might also consider ensuring a minimum period of one full day in between final submission of working group revisions and final plenary discussion to adopt these documents. This will permit redrafting and translation in all three working languages of the Convention.*

## **Special events and meetings**

6. Participants generally expressed a positive impression on the opening ceremony and the CMS Champions' event. Many provided interesting contributions and suggestions to improve the new film as they recognised that it would be a powerful tool to promote the role of the Convention and to raise awareness amongst policy-makers as well as the general public of the conservation of migratory species. Several events and working group meetings took place outside of the plenary sessions during COP9. Here, presentations and speakers were generally considered to be of high quality. Various participants expressed the view that these events provided excellent opportunities for networking and for reviewing and exchanging scientific information. Better management was however suggested in order to foresee potential timetable problems.

### **Progress made by CMS Secretariat since COP8:**

- *The opening ceremony was shorter as it was split into three separate events.*

### **Follow-up for CMS Secretariat:**

- *Allow shorter side events to be run in succession rather than in parallel (for instance during the lunch break in between the two sessions of the Conference there might be two slots: 12.30-13.30 and 13.30-14.30),*
- *The Secretariat might also reconsider the whole length of the Conference because some overlaps of the numerous side events and working group meetings are inevitable during a five-day period (there were 8 more side-events at COP9 than at COP8 and the number is likely to increase in the future).*

### **Overall assessment**

**7. Participants who submitted the questionnaire almost unanimously indicated that the meeting made a considerable contribution to the conservation of species.**

Amongst the many encouraging comments, participants expressed their satisfaction of the high quality chairmanship, presentations, projects and scientific issues discussed during the meeting.

8. The high attendance and involvement in the discussions by Party and non-Party States' representatives as well as by non- and inter-governmental organisations, together with the working capacity and support of the Secretariat were also assessed as positive features.

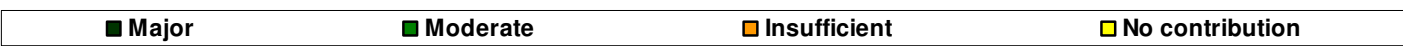
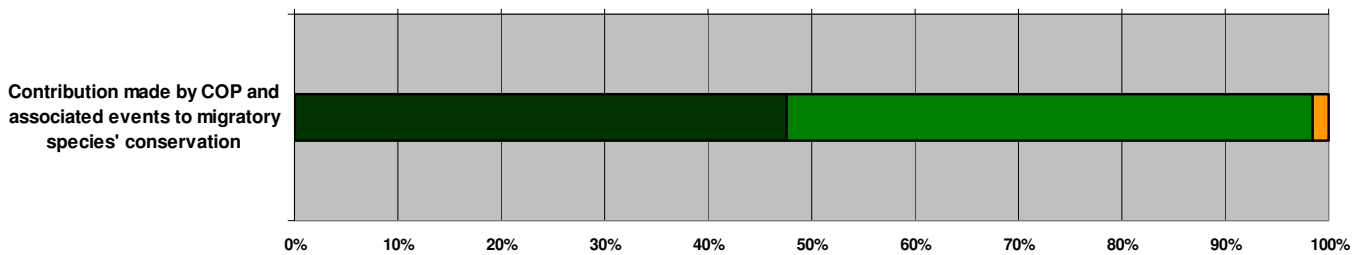
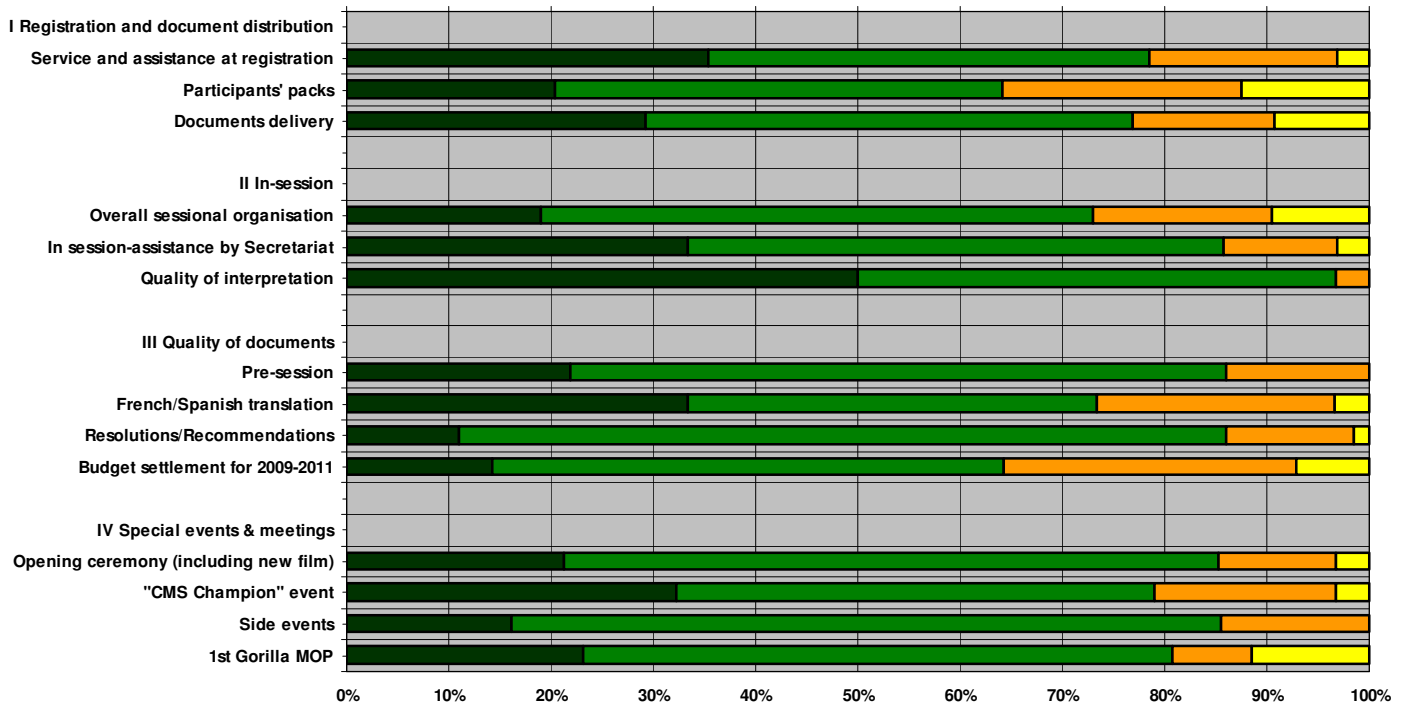
9. Respondents highlighted that the main weaknesses were in-session document delivery as well as time management of sessions and of parallel events and meetings. Some of the problems related to the conduct of the meeting that occurred at COP8 were repeated at COP9, despite the effort of the Secretariat to improve. Careful reconsideration of duration, and overall organisation of meeting sessions need to be made for future meetings.

10. A few respondents expressed their concern about certain staff members' behaviour. Those concerns are being addressed internally through team-building, coaching etc.

### **Action requested:**

- (a) The Committee is invited to consider the conclusions of this document in particular for the progress made since COP8 (paragraphs 3, 4 and 6);
- (b) The Committee is also invited to agree on the follow up actions indicated in paragraphs 3, 4, 5 and 6;

## Outcome of CMS COP9 Questionnaire



## Outcome of CMS COP9 Questionnaire (version for printing in black and white)

