



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

Distr: General

UNEP/CMS/Conf.9.23
5 November 2008

Original: English

NINTH MEETING OF THE
CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
Rome, 1-5 December 2008
Agenda Item 16.0

REPORT ON CMS ACTIVITIES WITH PARTNERS

(Prepared by the CMS Secretariat)

Mandate

1. Liaison with international organisations concerned with migratory species is one of the key functions of the CMS Secretariat as mandated by Article IX of the Convention. CMS Resolution 7.9 emphasises "*the need for CMS to strengthen orderly institutional linkages with partner organisations, and to define the scope of their responsibility and the ways to improve, in the most efficient way, their tasks and to enhance their synergistic effect*". The strategic plan of the Convention on Migratory Species for 2006-2011 further recognises that the goals and objectives of CMS complement and reinforce those of other international conventions and are shared by other inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations (CMS Res.8.2). The Plan stresses the need for cooperation in areas of mutual interest. Operational objective 4.6 calls on CMS to expand joint activities aimed at the achievement of common objectives with relevant multilateral environmental agreements and key partners (operational principle 2), and to work in closer collaboration with the institutions and partners of all CMS Article IV Agreements (operational principle 9).
2. During the last 3 years, the CMS Secretariat has continued to implement existing partnerships and to seek improved results through focussing on specific agreed tasks, if possible through joint programmes of work. In addition, the Secretariat has entered into five new relationships with AMMPA, ITTO, NOAA, WAZA and WHMSI bringing our formal partners to 24 (see Table 1). A further partnership with the Bern Convention is due to be signed on 26 November 2008 in Strasbourg.
3. Activities undertaken with partners are an ongoing process, whose timetable depends on a range of factors for which the Secretariat does not have sole responsibility. The present document summarises the current state of development of these 25 formal initiatives. The Secretariat does of course cooperate with many other bodies beyond those who are our formal partners.

Inventory of Cooperation Initiatives

4. The list in Table 1 below contains the growing number of organisations, including Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) with whom CMS collaborates, either in the development of conservation science and policy or on specific conservation projects. Partnerships are usually formalised through Memoranda of Cooperation or similar documents. Generally each partnership document includes an action plan which can be regularly updated.

Table 1

CMS Partners (November 2008)

AMMPA - Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums	07.04. 2008
Bern Convention – Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats	26.11.08 (expected)
BLI - BirdLife International	18.06.2004
Cartagena Convention - Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment in the Wider Caribbean Region	21.11.2005
CBD – Convention on Biological Diversity	13.06.1996
CIC - International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation	21.11.2005
CITES - Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora	18.09.2002
GNF - Global Nature Fund	21.11.2005
ICF - International Crane Foundation	19.06.2001
IFAW - International Fund for Animal Welfare	21.11.2005
ITTO - International Tropical Timber Organization	01.05.2008
IUCN - International Union for Conservation of Nature	15.09.2003
IWC - International Whaling Commission	25.07.2000
NOAA - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	22.05.2008
Ramsar – Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat	18.02.1997
SCF - Sahara Conservation Fund	21.11.2005
SPREP – Pacific Regional Environment Programme	21.11.2005
TUI AG - Touristik Union International	26.09.2005
UNCCD - United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification	09.09.2003
UNESCO - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	18.09.2002
WAZA - World Association of Zoos and Aquariums	27.09.2006
WCS - Wildlife Conservation Society	11.05.2007
WDCS - Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society	21.11.2005
WHMSI - Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative	22.07.2008
WI - Wetlands International	15.03.1997

Recent activities

5. The following sections highlight the key developments during the last triennium 2005-2008 resulting from CMS cooperation with other bodies engaged in the conservation of migratory species.

6. Earlier in 2008 CMS sent out a questionnaire to partners to gain feedback and an insight into how partners feel their relationship with CMS is developing, and what further measures might be useful. The survey is ongoing; the questionnaire is annexed to this document for reference.

I. Multilateral Environmental Agreements and Inter-Governmental Organisations

Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention)

7. A Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between the CMS and the Secretariat of the Cartagena Convention was signed in Nairobi, Kenya in November 2005. The Wider Caribbean Region contains a rich variety of complex ecosystems with a great abundance of plant and animal species - the greatest concentration of biodiversity in the Atlantic Ocean Basin - and diverse and productive coastal and marine habitats. Many of the Caribbean islands belong to major migration corridors and flyways.

8. Since the signing of the MoC, the Secretariat of CMS has participated in the 4th Meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (the SPAW Protocol); the 12th Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) and the 9th meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention in Jamaica, November 2006, where the Executive Secretary of CMS hosted a launch event for the Year of the Dolphin Campaign in the Caribbean region and discussed the SPAW Marine Mammals Action Plan, shark conservation and the implementation of by-catch reduction.

9. The Cartagena Secretariat also participated actively in the CMS/Ramsar Capacity Building workshop in Panama, August 2007. Both Conventions form part of the Steering Committee of WHMSI, sharing objectives and outcomes on the conservation of wider Caribbean migratory species. Eight parties are currently common to CMS and the Cartagena Convention, namely France, the Netherlands, Cuba, Antigua & Barbuda, Honduras, Costa Rica, Panama and the UK.

Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention)

10. At the twenty-sixth meeting of the Bern Convention Standing Committee in 2006, the CMS representative undertook to strengthen and formalise the existing cooperation with this Convention. Numerous European migratory species are covered by both CMS and the Bern Convention, and can be the focus for joint activities.

11. A Memorandum of Understanding between the Secretariat of the Bern Convention and the CMS Secretariat was prepared in 2008 and is due to be signed at the Bern Convention's Standing Committee meeting in November 2008. This Memorandum of Understanding will facilitate the development of joint programmes of work for the coming triennium between the CMS and the Bern Convention, and also between CMS species agreements and the Bern Convention where applicable. The joint programme of work contains references to regional CMS species agreements as key actors. The CMS Secretariat has consulted the ASCOBANS, ACCOBAMS, EUROBATS and AEWA secretariats during the drafting of the Memorandum.

12. The following issues are of mutual interest to both treaties:

- (i) Species listed by both conventions, including initiatives on Mediterranean monk seals; the implementation of single species action plans on migratory bird species (waterfowl or terrestrial birds like *Otis tarda*), as well as on sturgeons and bats;
- (ii) Ongoing Mediterranean species conservation action (e.g. marine turtles, cetaceans);
- (iii) Cross-cutting issues of mutual concern such as invasive species, adaptation and climate change (indicators), preservation of island biodiversity or sustainable use of suitable species including hunting or fishing activities;
- (iv) Bern Convention case files, which require regular collaboration with related biodiversity conventions and agreements to find appropriate and acceptable solutions;
- (v) Identification of sites within the Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest that are particularly important for the conservation status of migratory species listed on CMS appendices or targeted by the related CMS family of agreements; and
- (vi) Identification of pilot projects that could be carried out under the auspices of both conventions in a common portfolio, with a particular focus on joint fundraising efforts and direct conservation action.

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

13. A Memorandum of Cooperation between CMS and CBD has been in force since 1996. At present, active co-operation is focussed on the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG). The BLG is a high-level coordination mechanism founded in 2004 in response to CBD Decision VII/26. The BLG provides the chief officers of the six global biodiversity-related Conventions (CBD, CITES, Ramsar Convention, World Heritage Convention and CMS) and one other treaty (the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture) with the opportunity to focus their combined capacities on shared goals of conservation and sustainable development, such as the 2010 target and the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010. CMS regularly attends BLG meetings: the 6th one was hosted by CMS in Bonn in May 2008. A public information display explaining the role of the BLG, as well as common objectives of the treaties involved, was recently financed and produced by CMS. The BLG display made its debut at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Barcelona in October 2008.

14. The CMS/CBD joint work programme annexed to CMS COP Resolution 8.18 includes the integration of migratory species into CBD's national biodiversity strategies and action plans. The process of integration is the responsibility of CMS focal points within common member states. Good communication is facilitated through the reciprocal attendance of meetings.

International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC)

15. A Partnership Agreement was signed between CMS and CIC in November 2005. The CIC and CMS have been collaborating successfully on a range of subjects from Avian Influenza to the conservation management of the saiga antelope in the Russian Federation and Central Asia. The CIC financed a German language version of the "Avian Influenza and Wild Birds" brochure in 2008 to contribute to the Avian Influenza Task Force, of which the CIC is a member. CIC and CMS meet regularly, and attend each other's General Assembly and COP respectively. In April 2008, CMS prepared a paper on saiga antelope conservation for the CIC Symposium in Morocco on "Hunting as a tool for sustainable development", which preceded the General Assembly. The CMS Executive Secretary addressed the winners of the CIC Markhor award during the CBD COP9 in Bonn in May 2008. The 2009-2010 work plan includes the CMS MoUs on saiga

antelopes, Bukhara deer and Slender-billed curlew, as well as the raptor agreement and Action Plan on Sahelo-Saharan antelopes. Regarding the latter, the CIC has been advising on opportunities for an ungulate conservation project in Niger.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

16. The CMS and CITES Secretariats have worked, during the first half of 2008, on finalising a new joint programme of work. The document, as well as an inventory of the previous programme of work, were adopted by the CITES Standing Committee in July 2008 and are due for consideration by the CMS Standing Committee at its thirty-fourth meeting on 30th November 2008.

17. A comparison has been undertaken of CMS and CITES Appendices with the main objectives of identifying overlaps and discrepancies between the taxa listed, and make proposals for harmonization of nomenclature as appropriate. The result of this exercise is being submitted to the 15th meeting of the CMS Scientific Council for review and recommendations for follow up. It could then be submitted to the CITES Animals Committee (April 2009) for final discussion and adoption.

18. A meeting on West African elephant conservation took place in June 2007 to discuss the implementation of the CMS Elephant MOU with the relevant focal points of the MIKE (Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants) system, in parallel to a global African meeting of MIKE organised by CITES. Back-to-back meetings of MIKE and the 1st MOP of the Elephant Agreement are being planned for February 2009.

Commission for Central African Forests (COMIFAC)

19. COMIFAC (Commission des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale) attended the Gorilla Agreement negotiation meeting in Paris in October 2007. CMS and GRASP focal points attended a CBD/COMIFAC workshop in Cameroon in September 2008. Negotiations have begun to conclude a Memorandum of Cooperation with COMIFAC.

Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)

20. Collaboration between FAO and CMS has taken place on several topics during the past triennium. Since June 2007, the largest activity has been the joint CMS/FAO co-ordination of the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds. The Task Force is responsible for “AIWeb” – the Avian Influenza, Wildlife and Environmental Web site (www.aiweb.info).

21. Growing interest in threatened fish species under CMS has led to greater co-operation with FAO, as the primary UN agency for fisheries. Following discussions between the Executive Secretary and senior FAO officials, a statement by FAO confirming co-operation was made to the first CMS intergovernmental negotiating meeting for a sharks agreement held in the Seychelles in December 2007. During 2008 two further discussions have taken place in Rome between the Executive Secretary and senior FAO fisheries officials, which have increased mutual understanding on the options and parameters which any new arrangement on sharks needs to take into account. The meetings have also led to an agreement that FAO will make a fuller presentation of their viewpoint at the outset of the second sharks meeting in Rome in December 2008.

22. Increasing cooperation with FAO is also underlined by the fact that the CMS COP9, which is being hosted by the Government of Italy, will take place at FAO Headquarters (1-5 December 2008). Furthermore, close cooperation between CMS and FAO is continuing for the

preparation COP9 associated meetings, which will also be held at FAO, including the 15th meeting of the CMS Scientific Council (from 27th to 28th November); the First Meeting of the Parties (MOP) of the Agreement on the Conservation of Gorillas and their Habitats (29th November); and the 33rd meeting of the CMS Standing Committee (30th November). An MoU between FAO and CMS is currently being negotiated, and may also include other areas of common interest such as habitat conservation, wildlife disease and alien species. It is possible that the new MoU will be ready for signature during the COP in December.

International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)

23. Following discussions between the Executive Secretary and the chief officer of ITTO at their HQ in Tokyo in January 2008, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed in May 2008 between the ITTO and CMS with a view to developing joint projects on migratory species that depend on tropical forest ecosystems, such as gorillas, forest elephants and many birds. CMS is also interested in developing joint, cross-border projects with ITTO in West and Central Africa. Discussion on the development of these projects is ongoing. They are expected to complement the work done by ITTO on tropical trees in respect of migratory species.

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

24. A Memorandum of Cooperation was signed in 2003 with IUCN. In the framework of this Memorandum, collaboration has focussed largely on our relationship with the Species Survival Commission (SSC). The Executive Secretary has held regular teleconferences with the then SSC Chair, Holly Dublin, to discuss progress on CMS regional species activities notably on antelopes, elephants, turtles, marine mammals and sharks. In all these areas the Chair and IUCN SSC species group members have made important and often unpaid inputs to our work, for which CMS wishes to express its profound gratitude. Numerous CMS products such as the review of migratory shark species and the resultant CMS technical series publication on the subject in December 2007, as well as the preparation of the saiga antelope Memorandum of Understanding and medium-term work programme, have benefited from IUCN expertise. The Elephant MoU of CMS has been primarily coordinated by the IUCN Regional office for West Africa. Good contacts exist with the IUCN Environmental Law Centre in Bonn, which has been involved with CMS ever since negotiations began on a treaty for migratory species in the 1970s.

25. An assessment of the implementation of the Memorandum of Cooperation is currently being undertaken in order to prepare an updated joint programme of work. CMS believes that there is scope to strengthen relations with IUCN HQ which have become rather fragmentary over the last two years. Decisions taken at the CMS COP9 and the 5th World Congress will be integral to the forthcoming programme of work, which will be developed *inter alia* with IUCN HQ.

International Whaling Commission (IWC)

26. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed in 2000 outlining various measures intended to promote and strengthen communication and institutional linkages between the two organisations, including mutual participation in meetings of the respective convention bodies, information exchange and programmatic coordination, wherever possible. To that end, IWC and CMS observers have participated in relevant meetings of the respective partner Convention.

27. Differences in the policies and approaches taken to whaling and whales under the two Conventions make this a particularly challenging relationship. As CMS's own interest in cetaceans has increased (there are now 4 regional agreements in force), the CMS Secretariat has increased attention on building co-operation with IWC. During the period 2007-8, the CMS Executive Secretary visited the IWC Secretariat and participated in three IWC-related meetings, including two meetings convened by the Pew Foundation in New York and Tokyo, and the

official IWC Intersessional Meeting in London in March 2008 on the Future of the IWC (for the CMS statement at the latter meeting please see <http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2007/04_Apr/cms_cet.htm>.

28. Increased interaction with IWC has succeeded in increasing mutual understanding. It has been more difficult to agree on common or joint programmes because of the different policy and activity parameters set for each Secretariat. For example, although the IWC Secretariat expressed considerable interest in the CMS-led “Year of the Dolphin” campaign, it was unable to participate actively as there is no consensus among IWC parties about the status of dolphins under IWC, and the conservation policies to be applied to them.

29. CMS is consulting with the IWC Scientific Committee and the IWC Conservation Committee in the development of the programme of work requested in CMS Resolution 8.22: Adverse Human Induced Impacts on Cetaceans. The CMS COP document 9.26 on Migratory Marine Species provides further information on this ongoing initiative. CMS has a growing and important presence in cetacean issues. An updated joint work programme under the existing Memorandum of Understanding between CMS and the IWC is envisaged.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

30. Following the Executive Secretary’s mission to Washington in 2007, a Letter of Cooperation was signed between CMS and NOAA in May 2008 with a particular focus on marine species. The LoA’s potential areas of cooperation and action between the CMS Secretariat and NOAA, include:

- Identifying opportunities to develop and implement collaborative programmes, including exploring possibilities for the development of new CMS agreements for migratory marine species;
- Exchanging scientific information, advice and support, and engaging in research, training, capacity building and public awareness activities;
- Participating in the initial meeting on the development of a CMS Pacific Marine Turtles Memorandum of Understanding in 2008;
- Cooperating to publicise conservation threats to whales, other cetaceans, turtles and sharks, and existing measures (including laws and regulations) being taken through CMS and by the United States to protect these species;
- Increasing NOAA cooperation and participation through the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (which has recently been sent by the US President to Congress for ratification);
- Collaboration on the First International Conference on Marine Mammal Protected Areas scheduled to take place in March 2009; and
- Continuing engagement and collaboration with parties to the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Cetaceans and their Habitats in the Pacific Island Region, including through a number of cooperative marine mammal research and advisory efforts between NOAA and Pacific island countries and other relevant organizations.

31. There are regular meetings between NOAA and the new CMS office in Washington.

Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention)

32. A Memorandum of Understanding between the Ramsar Convention Bureau and the CMS Secretariat was signed in February 1997, identifying the following areas for active collaboration: joint promotional activities to enlist new parties; institutional cooperation (e.g. information

exchange and cross-representation at meetings); joint conservation measures; mutually beneficial data collection, storage and analysis and cooperation in the development of new migratory species agreements.

33. In an attempt to be more specific about the nature of such collaboration and also to include activities relating to AEWA, the Secretariats agreed to formulate a joint programme of work for 2003-2005. However this was only partially implemented, probably because it was over-ambitious. Contact was established again in 2008 with the Ramsar Convention in order to take stock and prepare a joint programme of work for 2009 - 2011. This programme will concentrate on specific, attainable goals.

34. Over the last 3 years the main successes in Ramsar/CMS co-operation have been:

- (a) Strong Ramsar participation in the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza.
- (b) Joint working between the Ramsar, CMS and AEWA secretariats on the issues surrounding the proposed Lake Natron development and its potentially damaging effects on the key breeding site for lesser flamingos. CMS and AEWA participated in a joint mission on this topic, led by Ramsar.
- (c) A joint CMS/Ramsar Capacity Building workshop held in Panama in August 2007.

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

35. In 2005 the CMS and SPREP Secretariats developed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC), which articulates the relationships of the two organisations in the Pacific Islands Region and acknowledges the need to coordinate the activities related to migratory species being developed by each organisation in the Pacific Islands Region. Under this arrangement SPREP and CMS have worked closely together in the development of the Pacific Cetaceans MoU and have maintained contact about the development of other species initiatives in the Pacific, and in particular any activities towards marine turtle conservation. More recently CMS and SPREP have negotiated an Annex to the SPREP/CMS MoC that articulates the working relationship of a developing Joint Programme of Work on CMS Related Activities in the Pacific Islands Region. This will be finalised soon.

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

36. The CMS Secretariat published a second edition of the Technical Series report on Sahelo-Saharan antelopes in 2006, which was a contribution to the International Year of Deserts and Desertification and included a foreword provided by UNCCD.

37. UNCCD has a new Strategy which provides considerable scope for collaboration with CMS. The MoU between UNCCD and CMS should be reviewed in the light of this new strategy. There is a possibility for UNCCD and CMS to cooperate within the framework of the new MoU on Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes envisaged for 2009, which UNCCD could co-sign. Furthermore, the CMS Resolution 8.23 on Central Eurasian aridland mammals notes the importance of arid lands for migratory species and supplies a good foundation for joint activities.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

38. A Memorandum of Understanding was originally concluded in 2002 between the CMS Secretariat and the UNESCO World Heritage Convention and the UNESCO "Man and the Biosphere" Programme.

39. Identification of possible joint projects on cultural/heritage species was carried out in 2006/2007. This needs further impetus. CMS published an article in the leading UNESCO science journal at the invitation of the Assistant Director-General for UNESCO, with whom there are continuing discussions on the specifics of the UNESCO-CMS cooperation. The CMS Executive Secretary also participated at the Man and Biosphere (MAB) Conference in Madrid in 2008. For the forthcoming “Year of the Gorilla” (2009) campaign, the Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP) is one of CMS’s partners. GRASP is a joint UNEP and UNESCO initiative and will provide the basis for further joint activities on great ape conservation matters.

Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI)

40. A Memorandum of Cooperation was signed in July 2008 between WHMSI and CMS in order to strengthen the collaboration on migratory species in the Americas. WHMSI is a major Western Hemisphere initiative dealing with migratory species. The area of influence of WHMSI covers all relevant species, including birds, marine turtles, marine and terrestrial mammals, fish and invertebrates. The CMS representative in Washington is liaising directly with WHMSI to develop a joint work programme. CMS attended the Third Conference of the Western Hemispheric Migratory Species Initiative in July 2008 in Paraguay.

II. Non-Governmental Organisations and Others

Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums (AMMPA)

41. In spring 2008 a Partnership Agreement was signed with AMMPA. One of the objectives of joint activities is to raise awareness of the conservation status of migratory marine species in North America and the instruments available through CMS that provide a global means for conserving these species. The CMS Secretariat and the Alliance now co-operate formally towards the achievement of the 2010 target and marine mammal conservation at the international as well as the national level.

42. Co-ordination of activities in research, training and public awareness activities is another goal. The CMS Secretariat and the Alliance will communicate agreements on areas and subjects of common concern within their respective networks. The Alliance will promote enhanced awareness and understanding of CMS through its work.

43. The CMS Secretariat and the Alliance will develop and support programmes and projects of mutual interest and identify possible projects for the Alliance or its members to fund, both independently and through the CMS small grants programme. The development of concrete project proposals is the next step. The CMS office in the USA keeps in touch with AMMPA.

Birdlife International (BLI)

44. BirdLife and CMS have been collaborating for many years; a formal Memorandum of Cooperation was signed in 2004. BirdLife has been active at each of the eight triennial CMS Conferences of the Parties in recent years with a multinational team of BirdLife Partner representatives. BirdLife representatives regularly participate at the Convention’s Scientific Council meetings. Many amendments to the appendices, as well as formal Conference resolutions, find their origin in BirdLife proposals and activities. Various CMS agreements relevant to migratory birds have benefited significantly from BirdLife input, both in the negotiation and implementation phase. BirdLife has been particularly active in the negotiation of

AEWA, ACAP, and the MoUs concerning the Slender-billed curlew, the Aquatic warbler, South American grassland birds, and the recently concluded MoU on African Eurasian birds of prey. BirdLife has also directly assisted the CMS secretariat in providing secretariat services to the MoUs concerning the Slender-billed curlew and the Aquatic warbler. In particular, BirdLife has for several years played a coordinating role in the Slender-billed curlew Working Group, created within the CMS Scientific Council to oversee and promote implementation of the MoU. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB – BirdLife partner in the UK) is presently leading an initiative providing for a set of actions concerning the species to be implemented in the period 2008-2012.

45. As regards the Aquatic warbler, RSPB and APB (BirdLife partner in Belarus) have been providing coordinating functions for the MoU since 2004, initially through funds raised by RSPB, and since 2007 on a cost-sharing agreement with the CMS Secretariat. The main coordination functions provided by the agreement include the production of a newsletter, maintaining a web site for the Aquatic Warbler Conservation Team, coordinating and supporting the development, fundraising and implementation of dedicated monitoring and conservation projects, and preparing the Second meeting of signatories.

46. In addition to MoUs, working groups established by CMS have benefited from BirdLife input, including the International Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds of which Birdlife International is a member.

47. On the national level, BirdLife partners have been lobbying their governments to accede to the Convention and its agreements. In many cases, the obligations under the CMS have helped to improve national legislation for threatened species and have stimulated regional cooperation.

Congo-Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP)

48. CBFP participated in the CMS Gorilla Agreement negotiation meeting in Paris in October 2007, and signed the “Paris Gorilla Declaration” on the day of the CBFP meeting. The Gorilla Agreement was signed by two ministers at the CBFP meeting. CMS, CBFP and GRASP held a joint conference in April to discuss cooperative activities. CMS became a member of CBFP in September 2008.

Global Nature Fund (GNF)

49. CMS and GNF have been formally working together since the conclusion of a Partnership Agreement in 2005; informal collaboration started in 2000 when GNF co-sponsored an educational poster campaign. Joint activities include raising awareness of lakes that are of global importance for the conservation status of migratory species, but also of marine migratory species such as dolphins. GNF has been an official supporter of the CMS “Year of the Dolphin” (2007-2008) campaign.

50. In 1998 the Living Lakes network was initiated by the Global Nature Fund, a global network of environmental partnership organisations striving for the protection of lakes and wetlands worldwide. The vision of Living Lakes is that all lakes, wetlands and freshwater bodies of the world should be healthy ecosystems and when used by humans, it should be sustainable without damaging the environment. GNF and UNEP/CMS organised an international seminar on Avian Influenza at the 11th international Living Lakes Conference. The conference with a focus on balancing agriculture and lake protection took place in 2006 at Poyang Lake in China.

International Crane Foundation (ICF)

51. Collaboration between ICF and CMS has focussed on Siberian Cranes, for which there has been a CMS agreement (MoU) in force since 1993. A formal Letter of Agreement was signed in 2001 between CMS and ICF to facilitate co-ordination of the MoU. ICF is also a lead actor in the implementation of a major Global Environment Facility (GEF) project aimed at conserving wetland habitats vital for the conservation of Siberian Cranes and other migratory waterbirds in four participating countries: China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation.

52. Siberian Cranes are critically endangered as a result of hunting and habitat loss. This is an 'umbrella species', a species whose habitat requirements are so broad as to encompass entire ecosystems - the conservation of their wetlands protects a wealth of species dependent on these same ecosystems. The Siberian Crane's West/Central and East Asian flyways are used by millions of migratory waterbirds including at least 32 endangered species that depend on the same wetlands for their survival.

International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)

53. The collaboration between IFAW and CMS has been particularly fruitful during the recent triennium. Following talks between IFAW and CMS officials, IFAW offered at the CMS Standing Committee in 2007 to second a member of staff to the CMS Secretariat in Bonn for one year. The officer took up his post in 2008 and is now providing support for marine mammal and other species protection work, in collaboration with the CMS and ASCOBANS team. So far, he has been mainly focusing on work on cetaceans under Resolution 8.22 and on bycatch and ship strikes. CMS is particularly grateful for this generous offer from IFAW.

Sahara Conservation Fund (SCF)

54. Since its birth in 2004, SCF has been a major partner of CMS in the implementation of the CMS Action Plan for the conservation and restoration of the Sahelo-Saharan megafauna. The partnership has been particularly close and successful in the work evolving around the establishment of the 10 million hectare Termit - TinTouma protected area in Niger, a Saharan biodiversity hotspot, one of the last refuges of many unique species adapted to these extreme ecosystems, and home of the last viable world population of Addax (*Addax nasomaculatus*). CMS Technical Series No.11 on the status and perspectives for the conservation of Sahelo-Saharan antelopes was produced jointly with SCF. Another particularly fruitful collaboration between CMS and SCF was developed around the establishment of metapopulations of semi-captive Addax and Oryx (*Oryx dammah*) in southern Tunisian protected areas, with the aim of reintroducing them in their former habitats in the near future.

TUI AG

55. During 2005-6 CMS and TUI developed a close working relationship, which was eventually encapsulated in a partnership agreement signed in 2005. TUI financed the publication of two major publications by CMS in 2006 on *Wildlife Watching* and *Migratory Species* and *Climate Change*. TUI then agreed to be the primary corporate partner of the CMS-led "Year of the Dolphin" (YoD) campaign in 2007-2008. TUI funded and established the special YoD website. They also funded several other YoD activities and products, notably a 'Dolphin Manual'

aimed at young people published in 2007 in 9 different languages. This was used at many TUI holiday resorts as well as being distributed through UNESCO.

56. TUI also helped with the finance and organisation for the first meeting in 2007 to negotiate a CMS agreement for small cetaceans (and manatees) in the Eastern Atlantic which was designed to be a lasting result of Year of the Dolphin (the agreement was completed in 2008 and is now in force). Also of particular note were the contributions made by TUI in Kenya, which became a focal country for the YoD. TUI helped organise an on the ground awareness campaign in Kenyan coastal communities which reached many, especially young people through the schools. TUI also acts on the partners' steering group for Year of the Dolphin, and played a key role in assisting the campaign in addressing some controversial issues concerning dolphins in captivity which threatened at one stage to distract YoD from its objectives.

57. The CMS Secretariat would like to place on record its gratitude to TUI – and particularly to Michael Iwand whose lead role was crucial in obtaining the initial partnership, and the two publications in 2006. We also thank him and other TUI colleagues for their role in running YoD as a successful MEA-NGO- Private Sector campaign partnership (see also Conf. 9.21).

58. The Secretariat and TUI have recently agreed to continue their co-operation in 2009 through a wildlife watching publication and perhaps also a poster related to Year of the Gorilla. There is also the intention on both sides to continue the alliance between the two organisations to continue beyond that in the medium/longer term.

World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA)

59. A Partnership Agreement was signed between CMS and WAZA in 2006. For the forthcoming Year of the Gorilla campaign WAZA will be a key CMS partner for the campaign, utilising its global zoo network to raise awareness of gorillas and the threats they face. Recently, WAZA has also assisted with the distribution of more than 300 Avian Influenza brochures to key members of the international zoo and aquarium community through its newsletter.

Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)

60. A Partnership Agreement was signed between CMS and WCS in Bonn in May 2007. The agreement is intended to enable joint efforts in major and diverse fields, such as gorillas, avian influenza, cetaceans, turtles and aridland mammals, covering a wide geographic scope from various sub-Saharan countries to Mongolia and Thailand. The joint work programme includes monitoring and tourism impact as well as other conservation measures. WCS is assisting with the implementation of CMS instruments in numerous CMS range states, such as saiga antelope conservation in Mongolia and gorilla conservation in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

61. In addition, Billy Karesh, head of the Field Veterinary Programme of WCS has been a key member and contributor to the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza (see Conf 9.25). CMS and the Task Force as a whole have been able to take advantage of Dr. Karesh's experience of health-related issues among field biologists and conservationists, gained in developing the WCS programme for almost 20 years.

Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society (WDCS)

62. A Partnership Agreement was signed between CMS and WDCS in November 2005. A Joint Programme of work was developed and agreed in January 2006.

63. Since July 2007 WDCS has supported the Secretariat with part-time professional staff capacity. This has been of major assistance to the Secretariat and our thanks to WDCS should be recorded.

64. WDCS was one of the Founding Partners of Year of the Dolphin and remained actively involved throughout the two year campaign by providing technical support, developing and distributing education resources and providing media support and coverage. Their support, alongside that of TUI and the other partners was fundamental to the success of YoD (see Conf 9.21).

65. As well as long-term commitments to ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS, WDCS continues to provide support to the development of the Pacific Cetaceans MoU and the Western Africa Aquatic Mammals MoU through financial and in-kind assistance as well as advisory and technical support. WDCS is currently the major funder of conservation research under the Pacific Cetaceans MoU and now also supports the work of Signatory Governments through research development workshops and in-country technical support in the region.

66. WDCS has helped CMS by establishing an expert group to support the cetacean related work of the Scientific Council and the Appointed Councillor for Marine Mammals. The 'Cetacean Liaison Group' has developed a programme of work (see report CMS/ScC14/Inf.21), contributed to species listing proposals and provided expert advice on regional agreement development and the Year of Dolphin. During its 14th meeting, the Scientific Council recognised the valuable assistance provided by this group. WDCS has subsequently committed to expanding the work programme of the Cetacean Liaison Group, providing ongoing advisory and technical support to the Secretariat, continuing to support cetacean related conservation activities by CMS or cetacean related daughter Agreements and continuing to provide part-time professional staff support. WDCS will develop a new three-year Joint Programme of Work with CMS in early 2010.

Wetlands International (WI)

67. One of the original collaborating organisations, Wetlands International has been working with CMS on a range of wetland and bird conservation issues for two decades (e.g. creation of AEWA). WI has been a strong and supportive member of the 11-strong Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds. The regional focal points of WI have been assisting this initiative since its establishment in 2005. CMS hopes to renew collaboration with WI in 2009 onwards on other issues, notably the Central Asian Flyway where financial, personnel and other problems were obstacles to our original plans for WI to take a major role.

III. *De facto* Partnerships

68. The number of national and international organisations contributing towards the CMS mandate is growing on a daily basis. Dedicated non-governmental and inter-governmental organisations, and the scientists, journalists and many enthusiastic members of civil society that contribute to these, are vital to assist the development and implementation of international conservation instruments for species that migrate across national borders. CMS is thriving through its global network, which contains many *de facto* partnerships which are valued highly by the CMS Secretariat, but which have not yet been formalised and have thus not been included in the sections above.

69. Collaboration with the global conservation community often starts with sharing and discussing information on the conservation status of individual populations, new threats and regional developments relevant to migratory species, as well as the opportunities available for mitigation and adaptation. Organisations with a strong scientific focus such as the Zoological Society of London provide vital input on such subjects as climate change through their collaboration with the UK Hadley Centre and assist with the development of indicators, for example. Organisations with a strong focus on direct conservation action and the implementation of CMS Action Plans, such as the WWF or the Frankfurt Zoological Society, further assist the CMS Secretariat.

70. Collaboration also includes organisations involved in the education of the general public and raising awareness of global conservation issues, such as National Geographic Germany, which support the UNEP/CMS Thesis Award and Friends of CMS, an NGO based in Germany dedicated to supporting conservation projects targeting species listed on CMS Appendices. The renowned Natural History Museum in Bonn, the Museum Koenig, has also frequently assisted CMS with its scientific capacity and provided an inspiring venue for meetings, such as the most recent Avian Influenza workshop in May 2008. The CMS thesis award is coordinated by scientists at the museum. Corporate Partners such as Lufthansa, which also supports the thesis award and support CMS Friends, are critical to provide the funds to facilitate CMS-relevant activities. But CMS also aims to reach local people living in the individual species ranges and to address their needs through sustainable community-based conservation action. Many scientific and grass-roots networks such as the Saiga Conservation Alliance assist with providing these contacts and frequently even report on the maintenance of species-specific CMS instruments. These networks and linkages across all continents and disciplines are vital to achieve the CMS mandate and while a great number of organisations have not been listed here, they are of critical importance.

Conclusions

71. There has been considerable progress both in establishing some new partnerships and maintaining or improving existing relationships with other bodies. In the Secretariat's view, the most productive partnerships during the last triennium were those with CIC, CITES, ICF, IFAW, IUCN SSC, WCS and WDCS. The loss of the Inter-Agency Liaison Officer (and the gaps in other CMS professional posts) have slowed progress since 2007. In order to realize the full benefit of these partnerships, the Secretariat believes that additional professional capacity is needed at working level (P2 or P3) which can be combined with work on fundraising. This is included in the options presented to the CoP in the Budget and Manpower paper for 2009-11 (Conf 9.33).

Action requested:

The Conference of the Parties may wish to:

- a. Take note of the Report presented on Co-operation with Other Bodies.
- b. Make suggestions for any further partnerships (and priorities for existing partnerships).
- c. Ensure adequate resources for partnerships are available under the CMS budget.
- d. Support a resolution on the lines of draft Res. 9.6.

SURVEY OF ORGANISATIONS KEY TO CMS

Q1. Basic Understanding

Please tick and complete whichever of these statements is an accurate description of your organization's partnership or other collaborative relationship with CMS:

- (a) there is a partnership between our organization and CMS dating from [YEAR]
.....set out in a document entitled [TITLE and DATE]
-
.....
- (b) there is a partnership between our organization and CMS, but we are unaware of the precise history or documentation
- (c) there is no partnership between our organization and CMS
- (d) other (please give details)
-

Q2. Workplan

Our partnership with CMS involves a regularly updated workplan

- (a) yes
 (b) no

Q3. Current relationship and interaction

Please briefly outline recent events of CMS interaction and benefits for your organization that have resulted due to the partnership within the last year. List the events by level of importance (i.e. 1. highest value to your organization). Continue on next page if necessary.

1.
2.
3.
4.

Q4. Future Tangible Benefits/ areas of overlap

Please name up to 3 tangible benefits or areas of overlap which your organization believes it could in future obtain from the partnership with CMS:

1.....

2.....

3.....

Q5. Focal Point

The current focal point for our partnership with CMS is:

.....

Q6. Follow-up (please tick at least one box)

- our organization would like to hold a teleconference with CMS to discuss the partnership
- our organization would like to hold a meeting with CMS to discuss the partnership
- our organization's views are fully covered by this questionnaire
- our organization would like to initiate (or continue with) a regularly updated workplan under the partnership with CMS

Q7. Other Comments, Criticisms or Suggestions

.....

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