



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

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CMS INSTRUMENTS PROGRESS REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

Summary

This document is a progress report on activities related to all the existing Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) and the agreements under development, since StC40.

The development and implementation of CMS MoUs contributes to:

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

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

**CMS INSTRUMENTS
PROGRESS REPORT ON ACTIVITIES**

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

I. BACKGROUND

1. This document is a progress report on activities related to all the existing Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) and the agreements under development, since StC40. It is an update of document UNEP/CMS/StC40/21a. Further historical details of each of the Agreements can be found in UNEP/CMS/Conf.10.9 (Progress in the implementation of Article IV Agreements concluded, and development of new agreements).

II. AGREEMENTS

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

III. MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING

3. To date, 19 MoUs have been concluded under CMS Article IV. No new MoUs have been developed or entered into effect since StC40. The CMS Secretariat is responsible for the administrative and depositary functions for 17 of the 19 MoUs. Three of these (IOSEA, Dugongs and Raptors) are based in CMS project offices in locations away from Bonn, supported by external funding. For the remaining 14 MoUs, the CMS Secretariat headquarters in Bonn provides secretariat services, within prevailing human and financial resource constraints. Finally, in the case of two MoUs (Ruddy-headed Goose and South Andean Huemul), the CMS Secretariat provides only depositary functions, with secretariat functions being fulfilled by the two Signatories (Argentina and Chile) on a rotational basis.

4. A comprehensive table showing which countries are signatories to which MoUs can be found at < http://www.cms.int/about/all_countries_eng.pdf >. The 19 MoUs have been grouped below, based on their habitat, i.e., marine species (aquatic mammals, reptiles and fish), avian species and terrestrial species.

5. This report highlights the current state of activities, as at July 2013, undertaken since the 40th Meeting of the CMS Standing Committee (Bonn, November 2012).

MARINE SPECIES

MARINE MAMMALS

Dugong

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

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

7. The Second Signatories Meeting took place in Manila, Philippines on 19-20 February 2013; in cooperation with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR - Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau (PAWB), Philippines. Key outcomes include:

- Endorsement of the Dugong, Seagrass and Coastal Communities Initiative (Dugong Initiative) as a rationale and framework for current and future activities initiated, supported and progressed by Dugong MoU Secretariat with Range States.
- Establishment and Endorsement of the Dugong Technical Group (DTG) to provide technical support and advisory services to assist in the implementation of the Dugong MoU.
- Establishment of a joint work plan with the IUCN Sirenia Specialist Group (SSG) for dugong and seagrass conservation.

8. Implementation of the Conservation Management Plan: throughout 2013, the Secretariat has been actively pursuing funding for the Dugong Initiative, particularly for India, Mozambique, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea and Thailand; and for the Gulf Dugong Action Programme, which is comprised of two components: 1) “Gulf Collaboration for Dugongs and Seagrasses” and 2) “Addressing Marine Megafauna Bycatch in Net Fisheries in the Gulf”.

GEF Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project

9. Eight countries, namely, Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mozambique, Sri Lanka, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste and Vanuatu, have committed to providing contributions from their GEF-5 Biodiversity STAR Allocations to the five-year GEF Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project. Each country partner committed between US \$200K – US \$1M; which amounted to a net total of US \$6,076,554.

10. Consultation with Project Partners included:

- In October and November 2012, with assistance from the DTG, the Dugong MoU Secretariat coordinated a series of national meetings with country partners to develop and agree on activities, stakeholder involvement, budgets, co-finance and implementation arrangements.
- On 21 and 22 February 2013, in cooperation with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Philippines, the Secretariat organized the first GEF International Workshop back to back with MoS2 with participation from representatives from all countries involved.

11. The Secretariat is now in the final stages of drafting the project document and expects submission to the GEF Secretariat for approval to take place in late September 2013.

12. Bangladesh, Egypt, Somalia and Sudan and Saudi Arabia have signed the MoU within the last 12 months, bringing the total number of signatories to 26.

Mediterranean Monk Seal

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

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

- Coordination and implementation of the Monk Seal Recovery Plan in the Atlantic.
- Establishment of a system to monitor the conservation status of Monk Seals and their habitat in the Madeira Archipelago and to minimize consequences of negative known human interactions. This work is being undertaken by the CBD-Habitat Foundation and funded by the LIFE + EU Programme.
- Support to Monk Seal conservation projects and marine protected areas reinforcement in the African Atlantic range of the species through the Spain-UNEP Partnership for Protected Areas (LifeWeb).
- Training of local artisan fishermen in responsible and suitable fisheries.
- Installation of photo-trap cameras in caves and open beaches in Cap Blanc peninsula in Morocco and Mauritania in order to determine Monk Seals' presence and habitat use.

14. A meeting of the Working Group is expected to be organized in early 2014.

Pacific Islands Cetaceans

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

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

16. Activities of the MoU Action Plan are currently being implemented including:

- development of a Management Plan for dolphins in the Solomon Islands;
- development of Fiji's Whale sanctuary management plan;
- facilitating cetacean stranding training for Tonga and Vanuatu in partnership with NOAA and University of Hawaii;
- improving understanding of species diversity in Pacific Island countries and territories through increased use of www.pacificcetaceans.org and development of a Smartphone application for citizen science; and
- review of whale watching industry in the Pacific Islands region.

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

18. The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) is expanding its membership to 12 to broaden its base of expertise. Two additional nominees, both from the USA, the most recent Signatory to the MoU, are awaiting endorsement.
19. A paper on the seabed mining and its impact on cetaceans in the Pacific Islands Region is being prepared by the TAG.
20. The CMS Pacific Officer presented the MoU as an example of a working conservation mechanism and partnership in the region at a recent meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) Working Groups on Conservation Management Plans and Whale Watching (24-26 May 2013, Australia).
21. The TAG coordinator promoted the MoU Action Plan and the CMS Strategic Plan at the CBD 'Regional Workshop for the Pacific Countries on the Preparation of the Fifth National Report'.
22. Preparations are underway to facilitate a CMS session at the 9th Pacific Island Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas (December, 2013).
23. Palau has expressed an interest in signing the MoU, which would bring the number of Signatories to 16.

Western African Aquatic Mammals

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

24. The CMS Secretariat provides the secretariat for this MoU. Due to limited resources, no action has been taken since COP10. The idea of establishing a Technical Advisory Group, along the lines of that operating under the PIC MoU, remains a possibility.
25. The Secretariat is also considering whether any coordination arrangements for this MoU could be combined with that of the Atlantic marine turtles in keeping with Resolution 10.9, Activity 15.2, although neither a suitable partner for coordination nor funds to enable their work have yet been identified.

MARINE REPTILES AND FISH

Atlantic Turtles

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

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

27. With assistance from the French Government, a project is being implemented by the NGO Association Chelonée: *Official publication of gazettelement (décret de classification) of the Elombo National Marine Park in Cameroon and developing the draft conservation plan for the park*. The project is due to start in September 2013.

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

IOSEA Turtles

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

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

30. The Fourth Meeting of the Western Indian Ocean – Marine Turtle Task Force (WIO-MTTF) was organized in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, in December 2012. Among other things, the workshop served to validate and improve the Evaluation Criteria that will be used to assess nominations to the IOSEA Site Network. Discussions are currently underway to hold a WIO-MTTF side-event in the margins of the forthcoming Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association Scientific Symposium (Maputo, October 2013).

31. The further development of the Network of Sites of Importance for Marine Turtles in the IOSEA region remains a major preoccupation, in anticipation of the formal launch of the network at the next meeting of Signatory States. About 80 potential candidate sites have been identified, an online gallery of satellite imagery has been developed, and sample Site Data Sheets are being prepared for a selection of sites, with a view to encouraging nominations by IOSEA members.

32. In addition to maintaining a dynamic website of articles, longer profiles and news stories, publications produced in late 2012/2013 have included a comprehensive year-end review of marine turtle-related activities around the IOSEA region, and an update of the 2006 assessment of the conservation status of the leatherback turtle. A similar new assessment for loggerhead turtles is due for publication in July 2013.

33. Excellent collaboration with the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) has continued, with co-funding of a region-wide Ecological Risk Assessment for Marine Turtles (presented at the IOTC Scientific Committee meeting in December 2012), and the preparation, in April 2013, of a detailed analysis of IOTC reports with regard to fisheries-turtle interactions in the Indian Ocean. The IOTC Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch, meeting in September 2013, will provide a further opportunity to collaborate on bycatch issues.

34. Modest funding has been sought for a continuation of the IOSEA Technical Support and Capacity-Building Programme, which is expected to provide support to 2-3 developing countries over the coming year. Other substantive outputs expected to materialize in 2013 include a new database to track international flipper tag recoveries and a regional overview of stakeholder participation/engagement in marine turtle conservation around the IOSEA region.

Sharks

Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks

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

36. Following up on decisions taken at the First Meeting of the Signatories, which took place in September 2012, the Interim Secretariat has implemented the following activities:

- Supported the Advisory Committee (AC) in its establishment and its initial work.
- Assisted the Intersessional Working Group in starting its work on developing Rules of Procedure for Meetings of Signatories and questions regarding Cooperating Partners to the MoU.
- Established a Trust Fund for the MoU and requested Signatories to contribute to the approved budget through voluntary contributions.
- Developed a new website aiming to provide Signatories and other interested audiences access to relevant information about the MoU. Its content will be migrated to the future CMS Family website upon the finalization of the latter (www.sharksmou.org).
- Developed an online workspace to support the work of the Advisory Committee and the Intersessional Working Group (<http://workspace.cms.int/sharks/>).
- Representation: organized a side event at CITES COP16 in March 2013, focusing on both the MoU as well as the proposals to list relevant species on the CITES Appendices; informed participants about the MoU at a regional meeting on shark conservation in the Arab region, which was organized by IFAW International in cooperation with Shark Quest Arabia.
- Brought written statements and recommendations, related to draft decisions on the conservation of migratory sharks to the attention of Parties to the CITES, the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) at their meetings.
- Started development of several conservation projects with NGO partners: aiming to build capacity on the conservation of sharks in the Arabian region, funded through the European Commission; raising awareness on threats to sharks in Palau, funded by Monaco; and on capacity building and research in the Oceania region, funded by the government of Australia.

- A full time P3 and part time G5 position for the Interim Secretariat are being established by UNEP. Recruitment will depend on sufficient funding being received. While Signatories agreed an annual budget of over €300,000, very few funds have as yet been received. The current German funded post will cease at the end of 2014.

37. The CMS Secretariat together with its outpost officers in Washington (USA) and Apia (Samoa), Abu Dhabi (UAE) and Bangkok (Thailand) is active in recruitment efforts to increase membership in the MoU.

38. There are currently 26 Signatories to the MoU. The most recent being Vanuatu, which signed in February 2013. Colombia recently expressed an interest to sign.

AVIAN SPECIES

Aquatic Warbler

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

39. The CMS Secretariat provides the secretariat for this MoU, while BirdLife International, through its UK partner, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), continues to provide coordination services. This arrangement covers administration of the MoU; Aquatic Warbler data management; facilitating communications across the species range; supporting existing conservation projects; monitoring; direct active conservation work and research and development of new conservation and research projects, including fundraising.

Birds of Prey (Raptors)

Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia

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

41. The First Meeting of Signatories to the Raptors MoU (MoS1) was held in Abu Dhabi, 9-11 December 2012. This well attended Meeting reached the following key outcomes:

- Accepted the offer by the Government of the United Arab Emirates, to establish the Coordinating Unit (CU) for the Raptors MoU within the UNEP/CMS Office - Abu Dhabi.
- Established a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to support implementation of the Raptors MoU; adopted Terms of Reference; an interim nomination and selection procedure for TAG membership to enable it to be established and to begin functioning in 2013; and, identified tasks for the TAG to address.
- Adopted Rules of Procedure and a procedure to select and accept Cooperating Partners.

- Endorsed CMS Resolution 10.11 on Power Lines and Migratory Birds and urged Signatories and encouraged non-Signatory range States to utilize the mitigation Guidelines and other measures set out in the Resolution.
- Agreed basic principles and a schedule for National Reporting on implementation of the Raptors MoU, and tasked the TAG to develop an appropriate format (including future integration with the CMS/AEWA Online Reporting System).

42. In response to CMS Resolution 10.28, the Coordinating Unit established the Saker Falcon Task Force (STF) to develop an internationally coordinated Global Action Plan, including a management and monitoring system, to conserve the Saker Falcon (*Falco cherrug*). It is operating by means of four Working Groups considering the following issues: International Policies and Legislation; Knowledge Gaps; Sustainable Use; and, Fieldwork. The STF Stakeholders' Action Planning Workshop is scheduled to be held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 9-11 September 2013.

43. In March 2013, a consultant was recruited to coordinate the International Single Species Action Plan for Sooty Falcon (*Falco concolor*). A Sooty Falcon Working Group has been established to support the initiative. Moreover a questionnaire to gather knowledge about the species' distribution, population size, trends, threats, protection status and conservation actions was distributed to the Sooty Falcon Range States in March 2013.

44. The CU is funding a project led by the Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds (BSPB) to enhance field capacity in North-East Africa; gather critical information on the wintering ecology of Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*); and to support conservation on its Wintering Grounds. In addition, a Capacity Building Workshop was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 9-11 January 2013 and post-training field surveys were completed in Ethiopia, Sudan and Chad. The final phase includes a Training Seminar on Egyptian Vulture Field Survey Techniques, which was to be held from 28 July – 3 August 2013, in Gorno Pole, Bulgaria.

45. The Raptors MoU Online Workspace was launched in March 2013 to support work of members from the TAG, STF, and SFWG.

46. The CU continues to promote the Raptors MoU at a number of regional and global events.

47. Somalia, Niger, Tunisia and Sweden have signed the MoU in the reporting period, bringing the total number of Signatories to 44 (as of 4 July 2013).

Grassland Birds

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

48. The CMS Secretariat provides the Secretariat function for this MoU.

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

Great Bustard

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

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

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

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

53. At MoS3, the Signatories agreed to the following:

- Expanded the geographical scope of the MoU, adding four new Range States:
 - Italy and Montenegro as they can be considered a potential wintering area for the Great Bustard.
 - Russian Federation (European part only) as a large population of Great Bustards from Russia regularly overwinters in the Ukraine.
 - Serbia as a small breeding population exists in Northern Serbia which is probably connected to the Southern Hungarian populations.
- Adopted an Action Plan noting that there is still information pending from Signatories that needs to be included in the Annexes of the document.
- Reviewed the existing Medium-term International Work Programme (MTIWP) (2008-2012) and adoption of a new MTIWP for the period 2013-2016.
- Germany, Hungary and Austria agreed to share the coordination function rotating on an annual basis. Germany agreed to host MoS4 in 2016.
- Agreed to use an online workspace to better coordinate the efforts for the Great Bustard.

54. As Hungary met most of the costs of MoS3, the Secretariat had only to provide travel for itself and eligible delegates and some hospitality. As the Secretariat has no budget for MoU meetings, even this modest amount was difficult to find.

55. The Great Bustard MoU has been signed by 13 countries (as of July 2013) and four cooperating organisations. Signatories urged the other Range States, particularly Bosnia and Herzegovina, Poland and Slovenia, to sign the MoU.

High Andean Flamingos

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

56. The CMS Secretariat provides the secretariat to this MoU.

57. The Chile National Forestry Commission is arranging an unofficial meeting of the Signatory States and other stakeholders to develop an Action Plan for the MoU. This is scheduled to take place in Antofagasta, Chile, 8-9 August 2013. Delegates from Chile, Bolivia, Peru and Argentina are invited together with other experts and NGOs that work on the species.

Ruddy-headed Goose

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

58. The CMS Secretariat acts as depositary of the MoU, while secretariat functions are provided by the Signatories themselves on a rotational basis.

59. Chile continues to manage a three year programme for the prevention and control of invasive species in Magallanes, which deals with monitoring, research and education activities, the control of selling exotic pets in the region, the construction of protected breeding sites for the Ruddy-headed Goose and other conservation measures. The programme will run until 2014.

60. The Fifth Bilateral Ministers Meeting will be held in Santiago, Chile, on 22-23 August during which the Action Plan which was elaborated by Chile and Argentina will be signed. The aim of the Plan is to recover the continental and Tierra del Fuego population of the species to a level that will ensure its conservation status. Potential measures under consideration include: monitoring nesting and wintering areas; preventing non-target hunting and evaluating alternative breeding arrangements.

Siberian Crane

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

61. The CMS Secretariat provides the secretariat for this MoU, while the International Crane Foundation (ICF) continues to provide coordination services, in line with Resolution 10.9, Activity 8.2. Funding of US\$10,000 has been provided by the Secretariat to cover the salary of a part-time coordinator based in Moscow for one year until September 2013. Activities include facilitation of information exchange, production of a newsletter, support to public awareness and education programmes, and the maintenance of the Siberian Crane Flyway Coordination website (www.sibeflyway.org) as a dynamic information platform under the MoU.

62. Significant progress has been made to engage hunters, hunting agencies, and border guards in crane conservation in Central Asia. Ecological education activities are being

continued with hunters at designated and potential new sites of the Western/Central Asian Critical Site Network (WCASN) with a second grant from Mohammed Bin-Zayed Species Conservation Fund and administration by ICF.

63. In China, a water control structure is still under consideration for the outlet to Poyang Lake, which is by far the most important wetland in East Asia for wintering waterbirds and critical habitat for more than 98 percent of all Critically Endangered Siberian Cranes. Over 90 percent of Siberian Cranes stage at Momoge and Tumuji National Nature Reserves. ICF collaborates with the reserves and provincial governments to ensure sustained water releases and to develop climate resilient management plans.

64. In Russia, the “Flight of Hope” Project continues in west Siberia to promote Siberian Crane reintroduction through showing captive-reared chicks migration routes by teaching them to fly behind ultralight aircraft. Up to ten Siberian Crane chicks will be reared at Oka Crane Breeding Centre and released in 2013. Two one-year old Siberian Cranes were released at Uvat in June 2013.

65. The Siberian Crane Flyway News, Issue 12 was published in English and Russian, including information on key sites along the three Siberian Crane Flyways, captive breeding and reintroduction, and education programmes, and is available on the CMS website.

Slender-billed Curlew

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

66. No action has taken place for the Slender-Billed Curlew MoU since COP10.

TERRESTRIAL SPECIES

Bukhara Deer

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

67. The CMS Secretariat provides the secretariat for this MoU.

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

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

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

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

Saiga Antelope

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

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

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

74. Since 2011, when both NGOs officially took over coordination, they have set up the Saiga Resource Centre with initial funding from Switzerland for coordination work, including setting up a website distribution and translation of the Saiga News.

75. In June 2013, a one day technical meeting took place in Astana, Kazakhstan, in order to discuss a) the impact of infrastructure construction on Saiga in Kazakhstan (fence along the Kazakh-Uzbek border and two new railroads) as well as possible solutions to mitigate those impacts, and b) introduce and discuss the international coordination mechanism, the Saiga Resource Centre. The meeting was co-organized by CMS, SCA and ACBK.

76. In cooperation and with funding from the Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS) and Flora & Fauna International (FFI), the Secretariat initiated a study to investigate the situation and the anticipated effects of the above-mentioned infrastructure developments (border fence and railways) on Saiga and develop a set of recommendations to be presented to the Kazakh authorities. The results were discussed in meetings with the relevant Kazakh authorities (Environmental Ministry, Transport Ministry and security/border offices). At the time of writing, the report is being finalized and translated into Russian for publication.

77. The Secretariats of CMS and CITES organized a joint side event on the Saiga MoU at the CITES COP16 in Bangkok in March 2013. The side event brought together representatives from Range States and from States that trade in and consume Saiga products, to discuss the main threats to the species and how these are currently being addressed under

the MoU and under CITES. Representatives from China and the Chinese Traditional Medicine industry participated in the meeting and reiterated their interest in contributing to in-situ Saiga conservation and to strengthen cooperation with Range States.

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

79. It should be pointed out that the high number of activities undertaken in the name of this MoU has been leveraged with only about €12,000 from the Secretariat.

South Andean Huemul

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

80. The CMS Secretariat acts as depositary of the MoU, while secretariat functions are provided by the Signatories themselves on a rotational basis.

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

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

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

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

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

West African Elephants

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

85. The CMS Secretariat provides the secretariat function for this MoU. As reported to StC40, the plan for the CITES Programme on Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants

(MIKE) to provide coordination services through its West Africa Office could not be implemented, owing to the closure of its West African Office.

86. The CMS and CITES Secretariats remain in close contact regarding the future funding plans for MIKE, which may be extended to other endangered species, such as apes and rhinos, and which may enable the programme once again to provide coordination services, which would be in line with Resolution 10.9, Activity 8.2.

87. The Secretariat is currently considering options to support this MoU. In March, the Secretariat contacted Signatories to inform them about progress on the implementation of MoU and apprise them of related plans and needs for its further development including funding. The Secretariat also requested Signatories to provide information about the activities that have been and are planned to be carried out at the national level in order to determine the progress on implementation of the Medium Term International Work Programme (2012-2014) during this reporting period.

IV. REVIEW OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW AGREEMENTS

The Central Asian Flyway for Migratory Waterbirds (CAF)

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

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

90. The Range States furthermore requested the Parties to AEWA to consider at their Sixth Session of the Meeting of the Parties to be held in 2015 the extension of the AEWA geographical range to encompass the entire CAF region and incorporate the CAF Action Plan under the Agreement.

91. As a result of this Meeting, the CMS Secretariat in close cooperation with the AEWA Secretariat has initiated a study to assess the technical, institutional, legal and financial implications for AEWA if CAF is to be incorporated into the Agreement. With funding from the GIZ Regional Programme for Sustainable Use of Natural Resources in Central Asia, a consultant has been contracted to undertake this work and present the findings to the AEWA Standing Committee Meeting in September this year.

The Argali Mountain Sheep (*Ovis ammon*)

92. Following the listing of the Argali on CMS Appendix II at COP10, and requests from Range States, the Secretariat initiated the development of an international Action Plan for the conservation of the species. This was done in cooperation and with funding from the GIZ. A draft Action Plan was discussed at a meeting of Argali experts from the Range States, as well as CITES, TRAFFIC and CIC in December 2012 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. The Action Plan is currently being reviewed and will be finalized together with the nominated Argali experts from the Range States using the Scientific Council work space.

93. While it has not yet been possible to identify a suitable coordination mechanism to ensure sustainable implementation of the Action Plan once finalized, it is seen as a useful common reference for Range States to align their management and conservation actions for Argali, and improve their trans-boundary cooperation. The same applies to the joint work on the document and exchange of information using the online work space. The Secretariat does not envisage leading on the development of a new Argali MoU at this stage.

94. However, with the possibility of additional resources for Central Asia being available through the GIZ for meetings in 2014 and 2015, the Secretariat is looking into the possibility of convening a meeting of Argali Range States in 2014 to facilitate final approval and adoption of the Action Plan. We would hope to organize such a meeting in the margins of other meetings planned on migratory mammals in Central Asia.

Central Eurasian Aridland Mammals

95. With funding from the Swiss Government, the CMS Secretariat was able to initiate the process outlined at the 40th Standing Committee Meeting. At the time of writing the terms of reference are being advertised to a) undertake a study to identify gaps, needs and priorities for the conservation of migratory mammals in Central Asia, and to b) develop a programme of work for effective implementation of CMS and its instruments in the region.

96. The overall goal of this process is to improve the conservation of migratory mammals and their habitat in Central Asia by formulating a coherent strategy for conservation actions using synergies between the different CMS instruments and other stakeholders and initiatives. This includes the preparation of the above mentioned documents with support of a dedicated working group under the Scientific Council using the online workspace. It also includes the convening of a meeting of stakeholders from Central Asian countries in early 2014 to finalize the programme of work and prepare a supporting resolution for its adoption at the 11th Conference of the Parties to CMS in 2014. Matching funds for this meeting will be available through the GIZ.

97. The CMS Secretariat is closely cooperating with the GIZ Regional Programme for Sustainable Use of Natural Resources in Central Asia, which has provided funding for different CMS activities in Central Asia in the past and has committed to funding of additional work to implement CMS instruments in 2014 and 2015.

98. It should be noted that the high number of activities for central Asian species and MoUs could not be undertaken without the financial support of GIZ, nor the contribution of the German JPO, whose position ends in December, 2014, jeopardizing fulfilment of Resolution 10.9, Activity 10.1.

Snow Leopard (*Uncia uncia*)

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

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

101. The Secretariat continues to follow this process very closely and the Executive Secretary is planning to participate in the global summit in October. In cooperation with the World Bank, which is coordinating this process, the Secretariat is working to ensure that the on-going work under CMS in Central Asia, including on the Argali which is a prey species of the snow leopard, is being taken into account and that options for synergies and mutual support are being effectively used. To this end, the Secretariat recently wrote to each of the Snow Leopard Range States.

African Eurasian Migratory Landbirds

102. Progress on development of the Action Plan foreseen in Resolution 10.27 on Improving the Conservation Status of Migratory Landbirds in the African Eurasian Region is covered in document UNEP/CMS/StC41/19

Central African Elephants (*Loxodonta africana*)

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

104. Resolution 10.16 made no specific decisions relating to the way forward for this initiative, but stipulated a list of conditions to be addressed in developing new instruments. A key requirement was the need for a country or organization to be committed to leading the development process.

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

Instruments under development for which no progress has been made since COP10

106. There has been no progress in the development of the following instruments, since COP10.

- Agreement on the Conservation of the Asian Houbara Bustard (*Chlamydotis undulate macqueenii*).
- Cetaceans in the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia.
- Pacific Marine Turtles.
- Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for Sahelo-Saharan megafauna
 - But the Secretariat is supporting conservation activities through the Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes project mentioned in CMS/StC40/19.
- Sub-Saharan African Bats.

107. It should be noted that through Resolution 10.16 paragraph 7, Parties decided that if no clear expression of interest or offer to lead on an instrument materializes after two intersessional periods, the instrument concerned will no longer be considered as an instrument under development.

Next steps

108. CMS Resolution 10.16, paragraph 5, instructs the Secretariat to develop a set of criteria against which to assess proposed new agreements. This request is reiterated in Resolution 10.9, Activity 12. Activity 5.3 of the latter Resolution calls for an assessment of MoUs and their viability, as part of a wider gap analysis of the Convention.

109. The Secretariat felt that it would be better to undertake the Assessment of MoUs first, and take the lessons learned about their viability into account when developing the criteria for new agreements.

110. The Assessment of MoUs and their viability is currently being undertaken by the Secretariat. It will be circulated to Parties for comments as soon as possible. The Assessment and the criteria for new agreements will be presented for consideration at COP11.

Action requested:

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a. Take note of the progress in implementation of MoUs, and note the funding constraints some of these face.
- b. Give any further guidance to the Secretariat on agreements under development.