

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

*National Park Neusiedler See-Seewinkel, Burgenland, Illmitz, Austria
17-18 September 2004*

CMS/GB.1/4
Agenda items 6.0

REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

1. It is a general principle that the CMS Secretariat acts as the secretariat for Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) concluded under CMS auspices. The CMS Secretariat acts as Secretariat for the Great Bustard MoU pursuant to MoU paragraph 1(e). It also acts as the MoU Depositary (MoU Paragraph 19).

2. This note provides a brief overview of the Secretariat's responsibilities as Depositary and provides a summary of the status of signatures to the MoU and the Secretariat's recruitment efforts since the MoU's entry into effect. Section 2 briefly summarises efforts to generate a provisional list of contact points.

Status of Signatures and Recruitment Efforts to Date

3. The CMS Secretariat undertakes a number of activities as the MoU's depositary. The primary activity is to keep track of the status of the MoU. It keeps the original version of the MoU on file, notifies the signatories of new signatures and transmits certified copies of the MoU to the various Signatory States and organisations that have signed the MoU.

4. Document CMS/GB.1/Inf.2 notes that as of 21 July 2004 there are 12 State Signatories to the MoU. The last signature was that of Germany on 18 September 2002. In addition, four organisations have signed the MoU as collaborators.

5. The CMS Secretariat is active in recruitment efforts to increase membership in the MoU. It regularly requests the four remaining Range States to determine their ability to sign the MoU. The last request was made in July 2004. Of the original sixteen Range States eligible to sign the MoU only four have not yet signed: Bosnia and Herzegovina, CZECH REPUBLIC, POLAND and SLOVENIA. Upper case letters indicate a State is a CMS Party.

Action requested:

- The Signatory States are invited to consider and take note of the Secretariat's brief report concerning the status of signatures and recruitment efforts.

- Representatives of non-Signatory States eligible to sign the MoU are invited to inform the meeting of their Government's intentions vis-à-vis signature of the MoU.
- The meeting is invited to consider ways and means to increase membership in the MoU.

List of Designated National Contact Points

6. MoU paragraph 5 invites Signatory States to officially designate an authority or an authorised scientist as a national contact point for all matters relating to the MoU's implementation and to communicate their name and address to the Secretariat.

7. As of 23 July 2004, when this document was finalised, none of the Signatory States had provided the Secretariat with the name of their national contact point. The status of the list will be updated by the Secretariat and a provisional list will be presented to the meeting as document CMS/GB.1/Inf.2 if the situation changes. The document will be distributed at, or shortly before, the meeting.

8. The Secretariat appeals to the Signatory States that if they have not yet done so to please designate a national contact point and provide the information to the Secretariat as soon as possible. This should be done in writing from the Minister of the Ministry competent for the Great Bustard's conservation and management.

Action requested:

The Signatory States are requested to:

- Take note of the provisional list of designated national contact points.
- Provide updated contact information at the meeting, in writing, if it has not been already forwarded to the Secretariat.
- Invite Signatory States that have not yet designated a national contact point to provide the information to the Secretariat as soon as possible.