



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK 2015-2017

(prepared by the Secretariat)

Summary

For the first time ever a costed Programme of Work (POW) for 2015-2017 was submitted to COP11 (November 2014, Ecuador), where it was discussed and finally adopted through Resolution 11.1 on '*Financial and Administrative Matters*'.

This Report highlights the status of implementation of the POW since 1st of January till 1st of July 2015. Furthermore it indicates the challenges the Secretariat is facing with respect to some of the foreseen activities and next steps to be taken to deal with those issues.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK 2015-2017

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INTRODUCTION

1. Over the years Contracting Parties have expressed the wish to receive more information on how resources are allocated and used by the Secretariat. So far the Secretariat has regularly reported back to the Subsidiary Bodies of the Convention on its activities and financial resources used. Stimulated by the discussions at COP10 (November 2011, Norway) the Secretariat presented to the 42nd Standing Committee a draft costed Programme of Work (POW). This draft was approved by the Committee and paved the way for the POW to be presented at COP 11. For the first time ever a POW (covering the period 2015-2017) was submitted to COP11 (November 2014, Ecuador). COP11 thoroughly reviewed and discussed the POW and adopted it through Resolution 11.1 on '*Financial and Administrative Matters*'. The POW is a very important planning tool for the activities to be implemented as it will allow the Secretariat to increase its accountability and provide a clear overview where the priority for its work lie and what can be accomplished based on available funding. It will also enable the Parties to understand and monitor the work of the Secretariat better. The Secretariat will use the POW as the framework for reporting back to the Standing Committee and the COP on its work. Based on the POW the Secretariat has drafted its annual internal Work Plan.

2. This Report provides the current status of implementation of the POW from 1 January to 1 July 2015.

3. To fully implement the POW a total amount of approximately €19.5 million is estimated to be needed, while the Core Budget only amounts to €7.4 million. The POW is quite ambitious, and implementing it in full will present the Secretariat with the significant challenge of bridging the gap. The Secretariat will of course endeavour to implement the POW to the extent possible given the resources available.

4. This Report follows the structure of the POW. The activities in the POW have been grouped under the following headings:

- I. Executive Direction and Management
- II. Strategic Plan
- III. Implementation Support divided into the following areas of activity:
 - III.1 Aquatic Species Team
 - III.2 Avian Species Team
 - III.3 Terrestrial Species Team
 - III.4 Scientific Advisory Services
- IV. Resource Mobilization and Interagency Affairs
- V. Information, Communication and Outreach
- VI. Capacity-Building
- VII. Servicing of Governing Bodies and other CMS meeting
 - Operating Costs

5. The headings mentioned above, with the exception of operational costs, reflects the organizational structure of the Secretariat. Each Team has been requested to report back on its activities from 1 January to 1 July 2015.

6. The Report consists of two parts, these being a narrative report on the status of implementation, and the POW 2015-2017 in tabular form in an annex (Annex 1). The latter provides a brief overview of the status of implementation including some comments and remarks where applicable.
7. The POW was adopted by COP11. Since then some activities, already foreseen in the POW, e.g. implementation of Resolutions adopted by COP11 have been further elaborated and sub-divided into several activities and those that were not foreseen are indicated as new activities.
8. Although it was also the intention to include in the POW 2015-2017 activities that will be carried out by the CMS Project Office in Abu Dhabi, by the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia (IOSEA) and by Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks, there was insufficient time before COP11. However it is intended to submit to the next meeting of the Conference of Parties, a POW that will include all these activities. In the meantime, the Report submitted to the Standing Committee includes these activities. By doing so a full picture of the work of the CMS Secretariat is presented.
9. The amendments mentioned above to the original POW are highlighted in the document.
10. Finally having a POW allows the Secretariat to report back on all its activities under one agenda item instead of doing this at different times throughout the meeting as was done in the past. In particular, the table in Annex I gives a brief overview of the status of implementation and challenges faced by the Secretariat.

Action requested:

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- i. Take note of the status of implementation of the POW 2015-2017, challenges faced and next steps proposed to deal with those challenges and provide guidance, where appropriate.

THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POW 2015-2017**I. EXECUTIVE DIRECTION AND MANAGEMENT****Status of implementation*****Activity 1¹: Executive Direction and Management***

11. The CMS Management provides overall direction to the Secretariat. This is done through regular meetings with teams, on issues or sometimes directly with e.g. the relevant Programme Officer. Regular management meetings take place every month with the whole CMS Family including with the AEWAs Executive Secretary, the Executive Secretary of EUROBATs, Coordinator IOSEA, Coordinator of the CMS Office in Abu Dhabi and the Heads of the different CMS Teams. These meetings are open to all staff. Improving the planning of activities and organization of work has been and still is a priority of the CMS Management. Some progress has been made and the POW is being used as a tool to make further improvements in this respect. The goal is to increase the level of output. However it should be noted that the current POW is ambitious and that the resources available will limit the extent to which the Secretariat will be able to implement the Programme. Additional voluntary contributions and/or support from Parties and Partners would be highly welcome.

Activity 2: Supervising the administrative and financial management of the Secretariat

12. The UN decided to completely re-work the way it manages its administration, in both business processes and information technology solutions. At the center of this transformation is the implementation of leading-edge Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software that will provide a harmonized and streamlined approach to the following core organizational functions: Finance and Budget Management, Human Resources Management, Workforce Management (Organizational Management, Travel Management, Payroll, Programme & Project Management) and Supply Chain/Procurement/Logistics Management. The new system that is now put in place is called Umoja, which means 'unity' in Swahili.

13. The implementation of Umoja is a major undertaking with had and still has a tremendous impact on the day-to-day work of all Staff but in particular those that are working for the Administration and Fund Management Unit (AFMU). All Staff had and still have to follow some courses link to the new roles assigned to them in Umoja. Before migrating the data from the old IMIS system, the AFMU had to clean up the data. In May 2015 data were migrated to Umoja and now the Secretariat is in the process to double-checking to ensure that no data were lost and to divide the total amount of funds per Trust Fund into budget lines. This process is still going on and it will take some time for verify that all the data are correct. Unfortunately, the Head of the AFMU left the Secretariat to take up a new assignment at the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention Secretariat in Geneva. However, he continues to provide some support to the CMS Secretariat. His successor is expected to enter on duty on 17 August 2015.

14. The CMS Management is closely involved in the implementation of Umoja. Besides giving direct advice and guidance to staff, the CMS Management also organized meetings to keep staff abreast of new developments on Umoja and to answer specific questions. This will continue in the months to come.

¹ The activity number refer to the number mentioned in the POW 2015-2017 (see Annex 1)

Activity 3: Representing CMS and/ or CMS Family; raising awareness, visibility, etc.

15. The CMS Management has represented CMS and/ or CMS Family at different meetings to raise awareness, increase the visibility of CMS and the CMS Family and to stimulate accession to and increase support for the implementation of CMS and its instruments.

16. On a rotational basis and for the duration of one year, one of the Heads of the UN Agencies takes up the role of Chair of the UN Head of Agencies Forum in Germany. In October 2014 the Executive Secretary became the Chair and in that function as well as presiding over meetings of the Forum, he also represents the UN externally at different events.

17. Please note that Staff of CMS and of members of the CMS Family have attended meetings to represent CMS and/ or one or more of its instruments.

Activity 4: Independent analysis of synergies in the CMS Family

18. The Institute for European Studies at the University of Brussels has been contracted to undertake an independent analysis of synergies in the CMS Family. The outcome of this analysis will be presented at the 44th meeting of the Standing Committee (see document: UNEP/CMS/ StC44/Doc 15.1).

Activity 5: Review of Decisions

19. COP11 adopted Resolution 11.6 'Review of Decisions' and it has been decided that this activity sits best under Executive Direction and Management. Through the Resolution the Secretariat has been instructed to prepare lists of (1) Resolutions and Recommendations that should be repealed and (2) parts of Resolutions and Recommendations that should be repealed. Furthermore the Secretariat should submit this list to the 45th Meeting of the Standing which will take place in 2016. Accordingly this activity has been scheduled for next year.

Activity 6: Process to Review Implementation

20. COP11 adopted Resolutions 11.7 'Process to Review Implementation'. For similar reasons as mentioned above, it was decided to add this activities to Executive Direction and Management. In accordance with the Resolution the Secretariat drafted the terms of reference for a working group (see document UNEP/CMS/StC44/doc16.1) to be considered for adoption by the Standing Committee at its 44th Meeting.

Challenges

21. To fully implement the current POW more human and financial resources are needed. Raising additional funding is becoming a challenge in itself taking into account the difficult financial situation many of the donor countries are in at the moment.

Next steps

- To further improve internal planning processes and organization of work to increase the level of output
- To further promote and increase awareness about CMS and its instruments
- To identify ways to increase the resources of the Secretariat so that the POW can be fully implemented.

Management of CMS Office in Abu Dhabi²

Status of Implementation

22. CMS Office - Abu Dhabi is the largest office of the CMS Secretariat outside Bonn with six full-time posts. The Office provides the Secretariat for the CMS Dugong MOU and the Coordinating Unit for the CMS Raptors MOU.

23. This Office was established in 2009 at the kind invitation of Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) on behalf of the Government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and has been generously hosted from the outset by EAD at its headquarters. Between 2009 and mid-2015, EAD's investment in the Office amounted to almost US\$ 9.3 million in core funding along with the provision of world-class office space and other practical support. In 2014, the Abu Dhabi Executive Council approved, in principle, a five-year (2015-2019) US\$ 10 million extension of the arrangement. EAD generously provided approximately US\$ 1.3 million to finance the first year of this extension, and continued to host the Office at its headquarters. Consultations are continuing between EAD and the Abu Dhabi Executive Council for the remaining four-year period (2016-2019) involving approximately US\$ 8.1 million. In parallel, the UAE Ministry of Environment and Water has indicated the readiness of the UAE to join the Convention and internal processes are understood to be well underway to take this important step in the near future.

24. EAD's financial and in-kind investments have provided an unprecedented opportunity for CMS Office - Abu Dhabi to undertake a wide range of carefully targeted activities to support the Dugong and Raptors MOUs, and to promote migratory species conservation in the West Asian region, including promoting membership in CMS and its instruments. Major initiatives have included holding regular meetings of MOU Signatories, hosting expert group meetings, developing single- and multi-species Action Plans and leveraging multilateral finance for projects in developing countries with whom the UAE shares migratory animals. The Office has actively sought opportunities to develop Emirate-level, national, regional and international partnerships, while aiming to support the CMS Family's regional and global interests particularly in the context of addressing common threats to migratory species of regional importance including birds, marine mammals, turtles and sharks.

Challenges

25. Current funding arrangements for the CMS Office – Abu Dhabi are due to expire at the end of 2015. Consultations are underway to conclude a four-year extension of the donor agreement with EAD, which acts on behalf of the Government of the United Arab Emirates.

Next steps

- Work closely with EAD representatives to secure an extension to the existing donor agreement for an additional four year period.
- Continue to identify and seize opportunities to promote in the West Asian Region the work of and membership in the Dugong and Raptors MOUs, CMS and CMS Family.

² This activity was not part of the original POW but shows what has been done by the CMS Office in Abu Dhabi.

II. STRATEGIC PLAN

Activity 1 and 2: Strategic Plan Working Group and further development of the Plan

Status of implementation

26. A call for nominations for the regional members of the Strategic Plan Implementation Working Group (SPIWG) was made by the Secretariat through Notification 2014/037 of 4 December 2014. Membership of the Working Group was communicated to Parties through Notification 2015/010 of 26 March 2015. The first meeting of the SPIWG is scheduled to take place in Bonn in October 2015 back-to-back with StC44. At the time of writing, logistical and technical preparations for the meeting are underway. Resources to cover at least part of the consultants' work that is expected to support the SPIWG have been secured through a generous contribution from the Government of Germany.

Challenges

- Arrangements for the support to the SPIWG by the Secretariat had to be changed at the beginning of 2015. In particular, the consultancy through which the Secretariat was providing day-to-day assistance to the working group could not be extended due to financial constraints. Responsibility to follow the work of the SPIWG was assigned to the Scientific Adviser, this however coming on top of other duties and responsibilities more directly related to the position. Capacity within the Secretariat to follow and support the work of the SPIWG has therefore been limited in the first half of 2015. Provisions are being made to increase that capacity for the last part of 2015 and future years, when the SPIWG is expected to become fully operational.
- Administrative changes related to the implementation of Umoja have also made it more difficult to arrange for technical consultancy work in support of the SPIWG.

Next steps

- Ongoing planning, preparation and hosting of the first meeting of the SPIWG will be a priority task for the coming months.
- Hiring of consultant(s) to provide technical input to the work of the SPIWG is expected to be undertaken in the last part of 2015 on the basis of Terms of Reference to be agreed at the SPIWG meeting.

Activity 3: Amendment of the format of the National Reports to enable the implementation of the Strategic Plan to be assessed.

27. This activity has now been included in the POW to take into account a provision of Resolution 11.2, which requests the Secretariat to consider amendment to the format for National Reports. Changes might be needed in respect of assessing implementation of the Strategic Plan and to those indicators for which the National Reports are seen as a potentially important source of information. There is scope for streamlining existing reporting processes to reduce reporting burdens, and any proposals for amendments can be submitted to the Standing Committee for its consideration and transmission to the 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties. This activity is expected to be undertaken mainly in 2016, in parallel with the development of indicators and the Companion Volume. A revised version of the template for National Reports is expected to be submitted to StC45 for endorsement, with a view to its use for national reporting for COP12 in 2017.

III. IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT

III.1 AQUATIC SPECIES

Activity 2. Implementation of Resolutions

Activity 2.1: Res. 10.14 - By-catch of CMS-listed Species in Gillnet Fisheries

28. A joint CMS/IOTC capacity-building workshop for managers of the IOTC Regional Observer Scheme from Iran, Oman and Pakistan is scheduled for October 2015. The CMS Sharks MOU and IOSEA are involved.

Activity 2.2: Res. 10.15 - Global Programme of Work for Cetaceans

29. The Resolution sets the tasks and priorities for the cetacean-related work of the Aquatic Mammals Working Group of the Scientific Council, the Council itself and the Secretariat. A key action required was the organization of the April 2014 workshop on the conservation implications of cetacean culture, which led to the development of Res. 11.23 mentioned below.

COP11 appointed Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara as new Appointed Councillor for Aquatic Mammals. Work based on the priorities outlined in Res. 10.15 is currently being planned, with a possible focus on progressing work on defining habitat protection measures, developing guidelines for Environmental Impact Assessments for assessing the impact of noise pollution, identifying adaptation measures to counteract the effects on migratory species of climate change, and quantifying what is known about the impact of marine bush meat and identifying mitigation measures.

Activity 2.3: Res. 11.20 - Conservation of Sharks and Rays

30. The CMS Secretariat continues to liaise with FAO, Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), CITES, civil society and other relevant stakeholders in order to promote coordinated actions for the conservation and sustainable use of sharks and rays and has started to work on building capacity towards this goal, as further outlined in the section on the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks.

Activity 2.4: Res. 11.22 - Live Captures of Cetaceans from the Wild for Commercial Purposes

31. A questionnaire was sent to all Parties in April 2015 in order to determine the status of implementation of this Resolution. Specifically, Parties were requested to provide information on any existing national legislation prohibiting the live capture of cetaceans from the wild for commercial purposes, or any plans to develop such legislation. Furthermore, Parties were asked whether they had any national legislation that amounts to stricter measures than what is required under CITES Article XIV with regard to the import and international transit of live cetaceans, or had any plans to develop such legislation. As of 6 July 2015, 37 responses have been received. Once consultations are completed, the Secretariat will collate and analyse this information to assess the level of implementation of this Resolution and provide assistance to Parties wishing to align their national legislation more fully with the Resolution. The Secretariat will also provide a report to CMS COP12, giving a global overview of the status of domestic legislation with respect to this issue.

Activity 2.5: Res. 11.23 - Conservation Implications of Cetacean Culture

32. Following a call for nominations of experts sent to the Scientific Council in April 2015, experts on related aspects of a range of taxa have been invited to join the expert group. As of 6 July 2015, about 40 experts have accepted. Terms of Reference and a Work Plan for the expert group have been developed in consultation with the Appointed Councillor for Aquatic Mammals, and discussions are due to commence soon on the Scientific Council Workspace, where a closed discussion area has been set up.

Activity 2.6: Res. 10.24 - Further Steps to Abate Underwater Noise Pollution for the Protection of Cetaceans and other Migratory Species

33. The Resolution stresses the importance of undertaking Environmental Impact Assessments that take full account of the effects of noise-generating activities on cetaceans and other biota; similar wording is found also in resolutions of ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS. In line with these mandates, the CMS/ASCOBANS and ACCOBAMS Secretariats are currently preparing terms of reference for the development of EIA guidelines for noise-generating offshore industries for the CMS Family. Advanced drafts are foreseen to be submitted to the next meeting of the Scientific Council in 2016 for its comments.

34. The Joint Noise Working Group, established by the cetacean-related Agreements, ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS, now also includes CMS and serves its mandates.

Activity 2.7: Res. 11.29 – Sustainable Boat-based Marine Wildlife Watching

35. No progress could be made due to lack of funding.

Activity 2.8: Res. 11.30 - Management of Marine Debris

36. Initial steps have been taken for translation of the leaflet “Oceans Full of Plastic” into French, Spanish and possibly also German. As soon as the migration of the organization’s administration into Umoja has been completed production in the additional language versions can begin.

Discussions were held with UNEP in May 2015 to determine how best to collaborate and contribute to processes such as the Global Partnership on Marine Litter. CMS has also been asked to contribute to the development of a Massive Open Online Course on marine litter, which is being developed by the Open University in collaboration with UNEP.

New activity³: Polar Bears (listed on App II at COP 11)

37. The Secretariat is currently in consultations with the Government of Norway, discussing options for jointly convening a symposium looking at how climate change will affect the different sub-populations of bears, and how the scientific information can be used in policy-making at a global level. The meeting would bring together polar bear experts together with experts in relevant aspects of climate change, such as climate modelling that allows taking future climate change effects into account in management.

New activity: European Eels (listed on App II at COP 11)

38. The Secretariat is in consultation with relevant stakeholders including the Sargasso Sea Alliance and the IUCN specialist group, on future activities, which could include a scientific symposium on the status and conservation needs of the species.

MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING***Activity 3: Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for Marine Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa*****Status of Implementation**

39. The Secretariat is working with the UNEP Abidjan Convention on an MOU to undertake some joint activities relating to turtles and other species in the region.

³ Following the listing of Polar Bears and European Eels at Appendix II of the Convention opportunities have arisen to develop new activities.

Challenges

- Lack of financial and staff resources to implement MOU activities within the Range States
- To identify partners that can assist in the coordination activities
- To identify international partners (e.g. NGOs, donor agencies) that can support the implementation of the MOU can through their activities and/or financially;

Next Steps

40. Continue fund raising.

Activity 4: Memorandum of Understanding Concerning the Conservation of the Manatee and Small Cetaceans of Western Africa and Macaronesia (WAAM)

Status of Implementation

41. Due to lack of financial resources none of the activities foreseen in the POW for 2015 could be undertaken.

Challenges

- Lack of financial and staff resources to implement MOU activities within the Range States
- To identify partners that can assist in the coordination activities
- To identify international partners (e.g. NGOs, donor agencies) that can support the implementation of the MOU through their activities and/or financially;

Next Steps

42. Continue liaising with Abidjan Convention and continue fundraising.

Activity 5: Memorandum of Understanding for the Conservation of Cetaceans and Their Habitats in the Pacific Islands Region (PIC)

Status of implementation

43. CMS Secretariat (for PIC and Dugong MOUs) was represented at the Journées Bleues Regional Conference on Ecotourism in June 2015. Ongoing liaison with SPREP on upcoming issues, including the Pacific Year of the Whale, scheduled for 2016-17.

Challenges

44. The position of CMS Officer at SPREP ended in December 2014, when funding ran out. It has not been possible to secure additional funds, nor find another arrangement for technical coordination of the MOU.

Next Steps

45. Continue fundraising to enable technical coordination, and continue to liaise with the SPREP species team.

Activity 6: Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Eastern Atlantic Population of the Mediterranean Monk Seal (Monachus monachus)

Status of implementation

46. A Meeting to review the Action plan is foreseen for 2017.

Activity 7: Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks⁴

Status of Implementation

47. The 1st Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC1) and the 2nd Meeting of the Signatories (MOS2) are planned to be held in February 2016 in San José, Costa Rica, for which meeting preparations as well as fundraising activities are ongoing. At the same time, the work of the Advisory Committee and the Intersessional Working Group are being supported by the Secretariat.

48. Through active outreach activities to non-Signatory Range States to become Signatories to the Memorandum, its membership is constantly increasing, with the overall number of Signatories to 39 by the time this document was finalized.

49. Whilst Terms of Reference for cooperating partners to the MOU are currently being developed by the Intersessional Working Group, the Secretariat continues to establish a working relationship with NGOs and other relevant bodies and entities. A survey amongst potential cooperating partners was conducted to inform the Intersessional Working Groups work.

50. In cooperation with partner organizations and other agreements of the CMS Family the Secretariat undertakes activities to improve the capacity of countries and regions to implement the objectives of the MOU and to facilitate and promote implementation of co-operative activities by the Signatory States. With financial support from the German Government, an Identification Guide for “Sharks of the Arabian Seas” was developed, which will inter alia serve as training tool in the planned capacity-building workshop on “By-catch in gillnet fisheries” jointly organized by IOTC, IOSEA and the Sharks MOU, in October 2015.

51. Finally, the Secretariat supports organizations and Signatories in search of financial resources to implement the objectives of the Sharks MOU. A research project on sharks, including the great white shark in Tunisia was selected for funding through the CMS Small Grants Fund and discussions with donor countries on the financing of a monitoring project on the distribution and migration behaviour of Reef Manta Rays in the Galapagos is underway.

52. The Secretariat, which serves as Interim Secretariat to the CMS Sharks MOU, continues to provide management and in-kind support in terms of staff time of the administrative unit.

Challenges

- Many of the MOU Range States are developing or least developed countries with limited capacity to implement the MOU. Thus mobilizing resources for technical support and capacity-building to implement conservation actions remains a challenge and a major priority for the Secretariat.
- In light of the voluntary nature of Signatory contributions to the Trust Fund and the continued lack of incoming voluntary contributions, the Secretariat has had to adopt a conservative approach vis-à-vis expenditure of Trust Fund resources. This has been necessary to ensure the staff position for 2015.
- Lack of funds to convene an intersessional meetings of the Advisory Committee or enable experts represent the MOU at relevant RFMO meetings.

⁴ It should be noted that only a small part of the activities mentioned-above related to organizing the next Meeting of Signatory was part of the POW and that the rest is covered by resources provided by the Signatories of the Sharks MOU.

Next Steps

- Continue preparation for MOS2 and the first meeting of the Advisory Committee.
- Continue fundraising efforts for both secretariat functions, and for implementation of activities.

Dugong MOU⁵

Status of Implementation

53. The Dugong MOU Secretariat has focused on providing support to projects, capacity-building and technical workshops as well as fundraising for regional and national initiatives. Implementation of the Dugong MOU Conservation and Management Plan is facilitated through the Dugong Seagrass and Coastal Communities Initiative (DSCCI) which aims to improve community-based stewardship, trial alternative livelihoods solutions, address fisheries impacts on dugongs and other migratory marine species, increase education and awareness, fill knowledge gaps, incorporate dugong and seagrass conservation in policy, planning and regulatory frameworks and increase conservation capacity. Major initiatives contributing to the DSCCI that are underway or planned include:

- ***GEF-5 Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project (GEF Project)***: Provided support for the successful handover and initiation of the GEF Project through the successful recruitment of the Project Coordinator, coordination and facilitation of expert-level support to the Project Coordination Team and national project partners via participating in key in-country meetings or technical workshops (see below). Of the eight countries participating in the project Indonesia, Malaysia and Timor Leste are not yet Signatories to the Dugong MOU but all have indicated their interest in signing during the implementation period of the GEF project. A dedicated website which will showcase global conservation efforts for dugong and seagrass ecosystems, particularly the GEF project, has also been established: <http://www.dugongconservation.org>
- ***Projects***: Provided seed funding to the Trang Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Incentives Project in Thailand to develop a Conservation Action Plan and implement priority actions. Funds are also being sought to implement an Arabian Gulf Collaboration Project and other national projects in key countries, including India, to complement the GEF Project.
- ***Fundraising***: A proposal entitled: *Improving Standardisation of and Access to Seagrass Biodiversity Data for Decision Making and Conservation (US \$985,000)* developed by the Dugong MOU Secretariat, in partnership with Marine Research Foundation, was selected as a priority project by the Eye on Earth Special Alliance. The proposal will be one of 10 priority projects to be showcased at the Eye on Earth Summit 2015 to 650 high level invited delegates including the donor community. By being selected, Alliance members will endeavour to secure preliminary funding for the project through their donor organizations and relevant networks.
- ***Technical Workshops***: Two technical workshops will be held in September 2015 aimed at (1) refining and streamlining methodologies with a focus on innovative, incentive and participatory approaches and (2) preparing a scoping meeting for a major technical workshop in Q1 in 2016. The Dugong MOU Secretariat is partnering with Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi and Total Abu Al Bukhoosh to hold a workshop in Q1 2016 that will develop guidelines to provide researchers from dugong range states with endorsed guidance on

⁵ This is an overview of the activities carried out by the CMS Office in Abu Dhabi with respect to the Dugong MOU, which were not part of the original POW.

commonly used research methodologies. The aim is to help researchers collect and share standardized data on dugongs that will provide information on the status and distribution of their populations in a manner that is comparable across the dugongs' range. Promoting standardized data collection that is appropriate to the individual needs of each country will help inform the management and conservation of this species.

Challenges

- Over 90% of the Dugong MOU Range States are developing or least developed countries with limited capacity to implement the MOU. Thus mobilizing resources for technical support and capacity building to implement conservation actions remains a challenge and a major priority for the Dugong MOU Secretariat.
- Current funding arrangements for CMS Office - Abu Dhabi (which includes the Dugong MOU Secretariat) are due to expire at the end of 2015. Consultations are underway to conclude a four-year extension of the donor agreement with Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi, on behalf of the Government of the United Arab Emirates.

Next Steps

- The Dugong MOU Secretariat will continue to provide technical oversight support to the implementation of the GEF-5 Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project.
- Funds secured for the GEF Project and Eye on Earth Alliance will be used to leverage additional funds to implement further activities under the DSCCI.
- Ensuring that the GEF Project, other projects and workshops are a success will help make a solid case for non-signatory range states to sign the Dugong MOU.
- Preliminary planning to begin for the Third Meeting of Signatories scheduled for 2016

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)⁶

Status of implementation

54. The Seventh Meeting of Signatories (the 'Meeting') was held in September 2014 in Bonn, Germany. Apart from conducting its regular implementation review and the consultations on action priorities among sub-regional groups, the Meeting discussed a few major issues: fisheries-turtle interactions based on an analysis of States' National Reports to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), illegal take and trade in marine turtles, socio-economic issues related to marine turtle conservation, light pollution and some preliminary findings on the impacts of climate change on marine turtles. A sub-regional workshop will be held in October 2015 in the Maldives to establish a Northern Indian Ocean Marine Turtle Taskforce (NIOMTTF) to better implement the IOSEA MOU within the NIO region. In line with its Conservation and Management Plan as well as action plan arising from the Meeting, the following activities have been implemented:

- ***IOSEA Marine Turtle Site Network***: A total of ten site proposals were accepted to the Network by the Meeting, six of which continue to undergo revision by the IOSEA Advisory Committee before being published on the IOSEA website. In light of the lessons learned from this first nomination cycle, a Sub-Committee of the Meeting is currently reviewing the application documents, including evaluation and scoring criteria.

⁶ This is an overview of the activities carried out by the Coordinator of the IOSEA MOU, which was not a part of the original POW.

A Steering Committee is to be established to brainstorm long-term funding and monitoring options for sites of the Network.

- ***Bycatch and cooperation with Regional Fisheries Management Organizations:*** Based on past cooperation between the IOSEA Secretariat and the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), a Memorandum of Understanding between CMS and its agreements and the IOTC was drafted to define cooperation for the next five years. It is brought to the CMS Standing Committee and IOTC members for approval. Until the MOU has been approved, cooperation between IOSEA and IOTC will focus on the former's assistance in the updating of the annual IOTC marine turtle summary and the IOTC revision of the Resolution 12/04 on bycatch in marine turtles currently in force. A joint capacity-building workshop is being carried out for scientists involved and managers of the IOTC Regional Observer Scheme from Iran, Oman and Pakistan in October 2015.
- ***Illegal Take and Trade:*** Based on a synthesis report prepared by the Secretariat, the Meeting recognised the seriousness of illegal trade in marine turtles. A Working Group was established consisting of ten Signatory States, which is, *inter alia*, to submit a paper to the 66th CITES Standing Committee to alert CITES Parties to the matter and request them to take appropriate actions. A national meeting is being organized in September 2015 in Malaysia to look at the implementation of international commitments through national laws that will prevent continuous taking of marine turtles' eggs and meat.
- ***Development of online tools and facilitating information exchange:*** The IOSEA International Flipper Tag Recovery Database and other online tools, such as the IOSEA Satellite Tracking Meta-database, have been continuously updated and two webpages on bycatch and illegal trade respectively have been established. Monthly 'e-News' are sent out to a list of approximately 1,000 subscribers.
- ***IOSEA Technical Support / Capacity-Building:*** Requests from the United Republic of Tanzania and Madagascar have been received to assist respectively with the drafting of a National Marine Turtle Strategy and to support the strengthening of scientific capacity of officers. The Programme has not been used by Signatory States as extensively as has been anticipated by the Secretariat.

Challenges

55. Since the MOU is dependent on voluntary contributions from Signatories to cover its operational costs, the support of Signatories in implementing the MOU through the Secretariat has always been very insecure. Despite the introduction of a scale of assessed contributions, which are payable on a voluntary basis, operations of the Secretariat at the beginning of 2015 had only been assured for five months.

Next Steps

56. In order to increase the payment of voluntary contributions, the Meeting of Signatories in September 2014 had decided that the Secretariat should issue invoices to all Signatories based on the agreed scale. Ten out of 35 Signatories had paid contributions by 31 July 2015.

ACTION PLANS

Activity 8: The Pacific Loggerhead Turtle Action Plan

57. Following the adoption of the Action Plan at COP11, the Secretariat has secured nominations for Focal Points from nearly all of the Range States (Fiji, Ecuador and Peru remain outstanding at 31 July). The Secretariat is liaising with the Inter-American Turtle Convention Secretariat and SPREP. As funding is available for some implantation activities, next steps include for Range States to decide which activities in the Plan to implement first.

III.2 AVIAN SPECIES

Activity 11: Implementation of Resolutions

*Activity 11.1: Resolution 11.14 on Programme of Work on Migratory Birds and Flyways*⁷

58. Resolution 11.14 adopted a global programme of work on migratory birds and flyways with the overall purpose of identifying and promoting implementation of activities at the international and national levels that will effectively contribute to an improvement in the status of migratory birds and their habitats worldwide. The Resolution also adopted an Americas Flyways Framework to assist governments, NGOs, research institutions, corporations and citizens in the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats in the Western Hemisphere.

59. The main challenge for this Resolution is the lack of specific funds allocated for its implementation. A meeting of the Flyways Working Group is foreseen for 2016, resources permitting. Discussions are ongoing in order to organize this meeting in a Latin American country to promote the Americas Flyways Framework. An Action Plan is in preparation for the implementation of the Framework on the ground. During the Ramsar COP in Uruguay in June 2015 a flyways side event was organized by WHMSI with the participation of Rob Clay, COP-appointed Scientific Councillor for birds, in representation of CMS.

60. In February 2015 a Notification was issued in coordination with CBD in support of the Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative (AMBI) of the Arctic Council's Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna Working Group (CAFF), with the objective of improving the conservation status throughout their life cycle of migratory birds that breed in the Arctic.

Activity 11.2: Resolution 11.15 on Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds

61. The Resolution adopted comprehensive guidelines to prevent poisoning of migratory birds, covering pesticides, rodenticides, poison bait, veterinary drugs and lead. A joint CMS, AEWa and Raptors MOU workshop on bird poisoning in Southern African is planned for 24 August 2015 in South Africa, back to back with the AEWa pre-MOP6 meeting. This workshop has been made possible thanks to the financial contribution of the European Union through the ENRTP Strategic Cooperation Agreement with UNEP under the project "*Effective Implementation of CMS, AEWa and other CMS Family instruments across various regions and languages through capacity building*".

Activity 11.3: Resolution 11.16 on the Prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds

62. The Resolution recognizes illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds as global problem, but focusses on the Mediterranean as a region where these activities are especially acute and need a proactive approach. To this end, the Resolution foresees the establishment of an

⁷ In the original POW it was listed as activity 19 ' *The Programme of Work for Migratory Bird and Flyways incl. organizing meeting of the Working Group*'

Intergovernmental Task Force to address illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds in the Mediterranean, including government representatives of all CMS Parties in the region and stakeholders such as BirdLife International, IUCN and the Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the EU (FACE).

63. A concept note has been developed by the Secretariat and a consultative group has been established to guide the work of the Task Force. Letters have been sent to Mediterranean Parties and stakeholders requesting the nomination of focal points for the Task Force. Thanks to the support pledged by the European Union, it will be possible to appoint a Coordinator and organize a first meeting of members. The Coordinator will be based at the CMS Secretariat in Bonn and the first meeting of the Task Force is foreseen for the first quarter of 2016, back to back with the meeting of the Bern Convention Group of Experts on Illegal Killing of Birds.

Activity 11.4: Resolution 11.17 on the Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region

64. A teleconference of the Action Plan's Steering Group was organized on 12 June 2015 to provide advice on future steps with regard to this Resolution. Thanks to the funds pledged by Switzerland, it will be possible to organize a meeting of the Landbirds Working Group in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire) at the end of November 2015. The meeting will benefit from the logistical support provided by the UNEP Sub-Regional Office for West Africa based in Abidjan. In 2016 it is planned to organize, resources permitting, a workshop focussing on land use change in Africa and how this is affecting migratory landbirds. This meeting will be organized in close cooperation with BirdLife International.

MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING

Activity 12: Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Aquatic Warbler

Status of Implementation

65. On 20-21 May 2015, the Third Meeting of Signatories (MOS) to the Aquatic Warbler MOU took place in the Nemunas Delta Regional Park at the kind invitation of the Government of Lithuania. Eight signatories were present at the meeting together with NGOs and experts. The meeting was co-organized by the CMS Secretariat and the Lithuanian organization, the Baltic Environmental Forum under the framework of the EU LIFE+ project "Securing sustainable farming to ensure conservation of globally threatened bird species in agrarian landscapes" The MOS took place back to back with the international seminar "Achievements, Success Stories and Lessons Learned of the Aquatic Warbler Conservation" (on 19-20 May 2015) that was the stock-taking and final meeting for this EU LIFE project. The MOS was entirely funded by the LIFE project and there was no cost to CMS.

66. A set of recommendations was agreed by the Signatories to be undertaken by 2020. These address the conservation of the core breeding population of Aquatic Warblers in eastern Poland, Belarus and Ukraine; the Pomeranian population of Aquatic Warbler between Germany and Poland; the role of France as a major stop-over area during migration; the need to do more research in the wintering areas and to work with the African Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan.

67. The next MOS is foreseen for 2020 or earlier. This will be a very important meeting because the Aquatic Warbler Action Plan will be revised in depth and a new version will be elaborated. The coordination mechanism with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) will be assessed. On the positive side, the advantage of the Aquatic Warbler MOU is that it has a very active and committed constituency that is always ready to help and keep the activities going. The Aquatic

Warbler Conservation Team should be mentioned in particular as a group of experts that acts as a think tank providing very useful scientific advice and facilitating surveys, projects and research activities that are extremely important for the MOU. This Conservation Team is, de facto, the advisory body of the Aquatic Warbler MOU.

Challenges

68. Sustainable funding for the coordination mechanism that is currently in place needs to be ensured. Under this arrangement, the RSPB provides coordination services to the MOU through OTOP, the BirdLife partner in Poland. This mechanism has been endorsed by the MOS and in 2015 a Small Scale Funding Agreement (SSFA) was signed with the RSPB by which the CMS Secretariat provides US\$11,600 and the RSPB provides US\$18,000. The duration of this SSFA is of one year expiring in June 2016. The CMS core budget adopted at COP11 does not include any funds for MOU coordination.

Next steps

69. To continue to try to raise funds for continuation of the coordination.

Activity 13: Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of the Middle-European population of Great Bustard

Status of Implementation

70. The fourth Meeting of Signatories is foreseen to take place in the first semester of 2017 in the State of Brandenburg, Germany

Activity 14: Memorandum of Understanding between the Argentine Republic and the Republic of Chile on the Conservation of the Ruddy-headed Goose.

Status of Implementation

71. No information received so far.

Activity 15: Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Slender-billed Curlew

Status of implementation

72. This species has not been observed in recent years and subsequently no activities have taken place.

Activity 16: Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Siberian Crane

Status of implementation

73. In June 2015 the Secretariat participated in a workshop to develop a Conservation Strategy for the Eastern Flyway of the Siberian Crane between the Russian Federation and China. The meeting took place in Liaoning Province in China and was sponsored by the International Crane Foundation and the Disney Conservation Fund. The next Meeting of Signatories of the Siberian Crane MOU is planned to take place in China in 2016, resources permitting, and discussions with the State Forestry Administration have already started.

Challenges

74. To ensure sustainable funding to support the existing coordination arrangement with the International Crane Foundation, which amounts to US\$10,000 yearly.

Next Steps

75. To continue to fundraising for the continuation of the coordination and for the next Meeting of Signatories in 2016.

Activity 17: Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of High Andean Flamingos and their Habitats

Status of implementation

76. Discussions are being conducted currently with Peru with a view to organizing the First Meeting of Signatories of the Andean Flamingos MOU in the city of Cuzco in October 2015. Peru has been informed of the requisites for holding this meeting and the authorities there are currently exploring the possibilities of hosting and sponsoring the MOS. Confirmation that this meeting will go ahead is still pending. If the meeting is confirmed, its main objectives will be the adoption of the Action Plan. It will also be an opportunity for Argentina to sign the MOU, since it is the only Range State that has not yet done so.

Challenges

77. The main challenge for this MOU is to ensure that a coordination mechanism is in place to ensure timely implementation. One possibility is to establish a rotational system by which the signatory states assume the coordination role.

Next Steps

78. To organise the first Meeting of Signatories and to agree on a coordination mechanism.

Activity 18: Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Southern South American Migratory Grassland Birds and their Habitats

Status of implementation

79. Information on this MOU is currently being collected and will be provided orally to the Standing Committee.

Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors MOU)⁸

Status of Implementation

80. The Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MOU forms part of the CMS Office – Abu Dhabi, which is funded through the generosity of Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi, on behalf of the Government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Major initiatives and achievements since CMS COP11 include:

- **Second Meeting of Signatories (MOS2)** - Due to immense support received from the Government of Norway, MOS2 is scheduled to be held from 5-8 October 2015 at Trondheim, Norway. A webpage was established in February 2015, later supplemented with an online Pre-Registration process for participants. Formal invitations were issued in early June 2015 to all 52 Signatories and 3 Co-operating Partners, as well as to the 80 non-Signatory Range States who are welcome to attend as observers.
- **Technical Advisory Group (TAG)** - The Second Meeting of TAG was held in March 2015 in Abu Dhabi. Good progress was made and a consultation paper is expected to be issued to Signatories in July 2015, outlining recommendations for changes to the species (Annex 1) and sites (Table 3) listed in the text of the MOU, for consideration at MOS2. Nominations were received from Signatories in April 2015 for the TAG that is due to be established at MOS2 and to operate intersessionally thereafter.
- **Saker Falcon Task Force** – CMS Resolution 11.18 - Saker Falcon Global Action Plan (SakerGAP) was adopted at COP11. The first flagship implementation project taken forward was the creation and development of an online information portal to engage stakeholders within a Saker Falcon Network. This multilingual portal aims to build trust and raise awareness by linking falconers, trappers, falcon hospitals, conservationist and researchers within a network to exchange information that enables estimation of sustainable harvest levels for Saker Falcon populations, and also to encourage best practice. The portal will also facilitate a comprehensive data collection and management system to monitor trade in the Saker Falcon. The majority of the funding for the project was contributed by the International Association for Falconry and the Conservation of Birds of Prey (IAF), a Cooperating Partner to the Raptors MOU. A project Steering Group meeting was hosted by the Coordinating Unit in Abu Dhabi in March 2015, back-to-back with the TAG2 meeting, and the Saker Online Portal was launched on 20 April 2015.
- **Egyptian Vulture Flyway Action Plan for the Balkans and Central Asia** – Jointly organized by the Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds (BirdLife Bulgaria) and the Coordinating Unit, an international Action Planning Workshop was held in Sofia, Bulgaria from 5 – 8 July 2015. Over 70 participants from more than 30 countries attended and worked collaboratively to develop and refine a draft Flyway Action Plan that is due to be finalized for publication before the end of the year. In advance of the meeting, the Coordinating Unit commissioned a study carried out by the Vulture Conservation Foundation to evaluate the implementation of the existing EU Species Action Plan for the species, which was published in 2008. The results were presented at the Workshop to ensure that knowledge, experience and lessons learned will be incorporated into the forthcoming Flyway Action Plan.
- **International Single Species Action Plan (ISSAP) for the Sooty Falcon** - There is a pressing need to gather more accurate and comprehensive information on the Sooty Falcon

⁸ This is an overview of the activities carried out by the CMS Office in Abu Dhabi with respect to the Raptors MOU, which were not part of the original POW

(*Falco concolor*), particularly concerning its global population status and the main threats causing its decline. In April 2015, a first draft of a Sooty Falcon ISSAP was circulated to members of the Sooty Falcon Working Group, previously established by the Coordinating Unit. Subject to the availability of resources, there are proposals for an Action Planning Workshop to be held on Madagascar in spring 2015.

- **World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD)** – On 11 May 2015, the Environment Department of the Dubai Municipality hosted a one-day WMBD Seminar at the Falcon Heritage Center, Dubai, UAE. The theme for the 2015 campaign was ‘Energy – make it bird-friendly’. Lyle Glowka, Executive Coordinator of CMS Office – Abu Dhabi, and Nick P. Williams, Head of the Coordinating Unit, both made presentations at this national event.
- **African Raptor DataBank (ARDB)** – This is an ambitious, citizen science non-profit project that already holds more than 100,000 records of birds of prey seen in Africa. It aims to inspire birdwatchers, researchers and members of the public to submit observations and information that will reveal the conservation status of raptors and their habitats throughout Africa. Much of the continent is not yet served by a reliable internet connection so there is a need for mobile devices such as smartphones and tablets to capture data offline. A previously project sponsored by the Coordinating Unit developed a state-of-the-art offline Android App for the ARDB. Collaboration between Habitat INFO, The Peregrine Fund and the Coordinating Unit should see a similar offline App launched for Apple IOS devices later in 2015.
- **New Signatories** – Six countries have signed the Raptors MOU since November 2014: Czech Republic and Switzerland (5 November 2014), Syrian Arab Republic (22 December 2014), Lebanon (28 December 2014), Iran (10 March 2015) and Spain (4 May 2015).

Challenges

- Current funding arrangements for the CMS Office - Abu Dhabi (which includes the Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MOU) are due to expire at the end of 2015. Consultations are underway to conclude a four-year extension of the donor agreement with Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi, on behalf of the Government of the United Arab Emirates.
- Preparations are well underway for MOS2 at Trondheim, Norway in October but additional voluntary contributions are needed from Signatories to support attendance by delegates from eligible countries to ensure the widest possible engagement and promotion of the Raptors MOU.
- The Saker Falcon Task Force identified the need for a Coordinator to be selected and commissioned to oversee the implementation of the SakerGAP. The Coordinating Unit has developed Terms of Reference but so far has been unable to attract a donor to fund the position, which is viewed as critical to ensuring the successful implementation of the SakerGAP.
- Mobilizing resources to organize the proposed Action Planning Workshop for the Sooty Falcon, planned to be held on Madagascar in early 2015, also remains a challenge.

Next Steps

- Planning, preparation and hosting of MOS2 will be a priority task for the coming months. Likewise, fundraising efforts will continue with the aim of securing additional funds to sponsor delegates to attend MOS2, to recruit a Coordinator to oversee implementation of the SakerGAP and to enable the hosting of an Action Planning Workshop to develop the ISSAP for the Sooty Falcon.
- The Coordination Unit will continue to actively engage with wider CMS-led initiatives relating to prevention poisoning of migratory birds, illegal killing, taking and trade in migratory birds, and the Energy Task Force.

ACTION PLANS

New activity⁹: Baer's Pochard Action Plan

81. An International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of Baer's Pochard has been prepared by the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust. The Action Plan was subsequently adopted by the East Asian Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) in January 2015. The document has been circulated to the Scientific Council for its review and approval, and will be submitted to COP 12 for adoption. Resolution 11.14 on a Programme of Work on Migratory Birds and Flyways recommends the elaboration of an Action Plan for this species, which lives only in Asia and is considered as Critically Endangered by IUCN.

New activity: Far-Eastern Curlew Action Plan

82. An Action Plan for this species was recommended by Resolution 11.14 on a Programme of Work on Migratory Birds and Flyways. A Task Force has been established under the East Asian Australasian Flyway Partnership with the aim of developing an Action Plan under EAAFP. The CMS Secretariat is currently discussing with the Chair of the Task Force how CMS and EAAFP can cooperate for the development of the plan, which should be adopted at COP12 in the Philippines. In May 2015 Australia published conservation advice and included this species in the Critically Endangered category at national level. The species is considered as Vulnerable by IUCN.

New Activity: Yellow-breasted Bunting Action Plan

83. Following the catastrophic decline of this species' population, it is foreseen to develop an international Action Plan. The CMS Secretariat is currently working with BirdLife International to organize an action planning workshop, resources permitting. It is expected that the species will soon be granted a higher level of protection in China.

New Activity: Asian Great Bustard

Status of implementation

84. Following the inclusion of this subspecies of the Great Bustard in Appendix I at COP11 it is foreseen to organize a scientific symposium in Mongolia, in the near future, resources permitting.

III.3 TERRESTRIAL SPECIES

Activity 20: Implementation of Resolutions

Activity 20.1: Resolution 11.13 on Concerted and Cooperative Actions

85. This Resolution calls for action on the following terrestrial species, which are not covered by other instruments (see below): African Forest and Savannah Elephants, African Wild Dog, Cheetah, White-eared Kob and four species of African bats.

86. Across the ecological corridor between Ethiopia, South Sudan and linked to Kenya and Uganda it has been possible to map the movements of satellite-collared White-eared Kobs, elephants and Nile lechwe in collaboration with the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA) and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) thanks to financial support from Norway. This is improving the demarcation of Gambella National Park and other aspects of spatial conservation planning in this key migration corridor rivaling the Serengeti in ecological richness. A workshop is currently planned to strengthen Ethiopian and South Sudanese transboundary collaboration across the corridor.

⁹ The development of the Baer's Pochard, the Far-Eastern Curlew and the Yellow-breasted Bunting Action Plans and organization of a Scientific Symposium on Asian Bustard were not foreseen in the POW.

87. Funding and capacity permitting the CMS Secretariat is looking into strengthening implementation of IUCN regional strategies for Cheetahs and Wild Dogs, as well as the associated national action plans, and supporting targeted African bat conservation through a gaps and needs assessment.

Activity 20.2: Resolution 11.24 on the Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI)¹⁰

88. COP11 adopted the CAMI through Resolution 11.24 following a long stakeholder dialogue and assessment survey in 2014 and several regional meetings, including from 23-25 September 2014 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan to discuss and finalize the CAMI Programme of Work.

89. The CAMI Programme of Work is annexed to the Resolution and provides the roadmap for action on 15 target mammal species in 14 Range States, namely Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Details of the high priority activities and minimum cost implications for the current triennium are outlined in the POW table, which is part of this report.

90. The CMS Secretariat has sent out an open call for the nomination of the Species Focal Points (SPF) covered by the CAMI. Parties were requested to propose suitable experts that have a proven track record in research and conservation activities for CAMI species. The Secretariat received a good rate of responses and is currently finalizing the list of SPF. This will help to create an expert network that will support further implementation of the CAMI.

91. The CAMI framework encompasses all CMS instruments and policy tools targeting large mammals in the wider Central Asian Region. This includes the Guidelines on Mitigating the Impact of Linear Infrastructure and Related Disturbance on Mammals in Central Asia (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.3.2) adopted at COP11 through Resolution 11.24. CMS Parties in the region have now been given the task of transposing these into national legislation. With this in mind Mongolia's parliament has just passed "National wildlife crossing standards" and a workshop on "Implementing wildlife-friendly measures in infrastructure planning and design in Mongolia" is due to take place from 24-28 August 2015 in Ulaanbaatar, with the Ministry of Environment, Green Development and Tourism of Mongolia, the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety of Germany, the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation of Germany (BfN), GIZ and CMS as co-organizers.

Activity 20.3: International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Argali (*Ovis ammon*)

Status of implementation

92. COP11 adopted the Argali Action Plan and the final document is currently being printed with kind support from the German Federal Government and the European Union, through the Regional Programme on Sustainable Use of Natural Resources in Central Asia of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ).

The 11 Argali Range States were requested to appoint Focal Points in February 2015. Four nominations have been received to date, the remainder is still pending.

Challenges

- Lack of financial resources to implement Action Plan activities;

¹⁰ In the original POW the Central Asian Initiative was listed as activity 26.

- To identify regional and national partners who can take a lead in the implementation of the Action Plan on the ground;
- To ensure regular exchange of knowledge and information among argali Range States;
- To strengthen regional network of the Argali experts;
- To support capacity-building of various governmental and non-governmental institutions involved in the sustainable wildlife management in the region.

Next Steps

- All Range States to designate national Argali Focal Points;
- To organize the kick-start meeting for argali experts and practitioners (tentatively 2016, back-to-back with a foreseen CAMI meeting).

Activity 20.4: Resolution 11.32 on the Conservation and Management of the African Lion, *Panthera leo*

93. Resolution 11.32 *inter alia* requested Parties to review and consult on lion conservation and policy implementation and to report to the 44th Standing Committee. The Secretariat sent a letter to remind Parties of these obligations in April 2015. To further inform the debate the Secretariat circulated a questionnaire produced by WildCru in collaboration with Oxford University to CMS Parties which are African Lion Range States and followed these up with individual telephone calls to Focal Points. Preliminary results of the questionnaire analysis will be available for the 44th Standing Committee.

MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING

Activity 21: Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of the Saiga Antelope (Saiga spp.)

Status of implementation

94. The CMS Secretariat provides the secretariat for this MOU, with technical coordination provided by two NGOs: the Association for Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan (ACBK) and the Saiga Conservation Alliance (SCA).

95. Following a call for hosts in December 2014, the Government of Uzbekistan kindly offered to host the Third Meeting of Signatories (MOS3) to the MOU in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, from 28-29 October 2015, preceded by a two-day technical workshop (26-27 October 2015). The meeting will *inter alia* review progress made since 2010, adopt a Medium-Term International Work Programme for 2016-2020 and specifically discuss wildlife-friendly infrastructure following the adoption of the Guidelines for Addressing the Impact of Linear Infrastructure on Large Migratory Mammals in Central Asia (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.3.2) at COP11. In addition, the workshop and MOS3 will focus on combatting illegal trade in Saiga horn and meat, as well as wildlife health following the recent mass die-off event.

96. In May 2015, during the species' calving season, more than 134,000 Saiga antelopes suddenly died within two weeks in the Betpak-dala population in central Kazakhstan. It is likely that total mortality figures represent about half of the global population. One of the Cooperating Organizations of the MOU, ACBK, was present on the ground monitoring the die-off from the start in mid-May. The Ministry of Agriculture of Kazakhstan requested the CMS Secretariat to dispatch an emergency mission with wildlife health experts on 20 May 2015 to assist with sampling and investigating the causes of the mass die-off. Within one day the mission was set up, with Richard Kock from the Royal Veterinary College in the UK and Sergei Khomenko from FAO being sent to Kazakhstan. A large

number of organizations, experts and private donors have lent support since then to address this catastrophic decline. Funds are urgently needed to support ongoing investigations and to rebuild what used to be the largest and healthiest Saiga population globally.

97. A combination of environmental and Saiga-specific factors are likely to have contributed to the die-off. Two secondary opportunistic pathogens, *Pasteurella* and *Clostridia*, have been identified from all autopsied carcasses. However, the search for the fundamental drivers of the mass mortality continues since these bacteria are only lethal to an animal if its immune system is already weakened. To date, laboratories in Kazakhstan continue to analyze samples and further samples are being exported to the UK and Germany for analysis. A full analysis will be presented at MOS3, with a dedicated session of the technical workshop preceding it. This incident illustrated the need for the Scientific Taskforce on Wildlife Health established in 2011 by FAO and CMS to be revitalized.

Challenges

- To ensure sustainable funding for technical coordination, including MOU monitoring;
- To follow-up with the scientific research on the Saiga mass mortality incident, identify the causes of the recurring die-offs;
- To identify and provide guidance to the Range States on the possible management responses to prevent mass mortality incidents;
- To modify existing barriers to migration to allow Saigas herds to pass;
- To strengthen anti-poaching and trafficking measures throughout the species' range;
- To rebuild and strengthen captive breeding facilities;

Next steps

- The Third Meeting of Signatories of the Saiga MOU will be held 28-29 October in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, it will be preceded by a Technical Workshop 26-27 October. The meeting aims to review the progress towards the MOU implementation, revise and update the Medium-Term International Work Programme for the Saiga Antelope, identifying priority actions for the period 2016-2020.

Activity 22: Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation and Restoration of the Bukhara Deer (Cervus elaphus bactrianus)

Status of implementation

98. The CMS Secretariat provides the secretariat for this MOU.

99. Good progress in implementing the MOU has been made in Tajikistan, with support from the EU FLERMONECA project coordinated by GIZ. A national working group was established in September 2014, which evaluated the conservation status of Bukhara deer across the country with field visits to Dashtidzhum Nature Reserve, Pedzhikent Wildlife Preserve and Tigrovaya Balka Nature Reserve. In the last mentioned and the Zerafshan Wildlife Preserve populations have stabilized, but overall the status of the species is still unfavourable. The working group has prepared recommendations and a draft National Action Plan for Tajikistan which is currently awaiting the approval of the relevant governmental institutions. The key focus of the Plan is to increase population numbers, in close collaboration with Afghanistan and Uzbekistan.

100. The MOU benefits from the adoption of the Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI) through Resolution 11.24 and the presence of a dedicated CAMI Coordinator at the CMS Secretariat, who assists Signatories with the implementation of the wide range of CMS mandates. Activity 2.5 under the adopted CAMI Programme of Work attached to the Resolution lists Bukhara Deer activities

as high priority, notably the development of National Action Plans by all Signatories, the updating of the national report format and the need for regular meetings of Signatories.

Challenges

- Lack of financial and staff resources to implement MOU activities within the Range States
- To identify partners that can assist in the coordination of the Bukhara Deer MOU in Uzbekistan and Afghanistan;
- To identify international partners (e.g. NGOs, donor agencies) that can support the implementation of the Bukhara Deer MOU through their activities and/or financially;
- To ensure regular exchange of information and data among Signatories of the MOU and other Range States;
- Further scientific research on the Bukhara deer population in Afghanistan.

Next Steps

- To organize the Meeting of Signatories of the Bukhara deer MOU and update the Medium-Term International Work Programme (tentatively 2016).

Activity 23: Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the West African Populations of the African Elephant (Loxodonta africana)

Status of implementation

101. The CMS Secretariat provides the secretariat function for this MOU.

102. Anti-poaching capacity has been strengthened in the transboundary Gourma elephant range in Burkina Faso and Mali thanks to implementation by the Wild Foundation, voluntary contributions from Monaco and support from the Direction Nationale des Eaux et Forêts (DNEF) in Mali. The project trained 157 young people from eleven villages in 2014/2015 to form a vigilance network either side of the Malian and Burkinabé border in response to the rise in incidents of elephant poaching. This trans-border network of vigilance brigades is now part of a larger Malian network of around 800 young men covering 72 settlements throughout the 32,000 km² of the elephants' range. The brigades work hand-in-hand with the authorities and are now connected across the international border through a transboundary committee. Project activities also included the construction of fire-breaks which will also protect habitat for livestock and elephants and thereby reduce competition.

103. Community representatives and wildlife officials met from 3-6 April 2015 in Mondoro, Mali, and agreed urgently needed conservation measures for elephants contributing to the implementation of the CMS West African Elephant MOU, including the formal establishment of a new transboundary law enforcement mechanism at the village level. A follow-up meeting is foreseen on the Burkina side of the border, however funds are currently lacking.

Challenges

- Lack of financial and staff resources to implement MOU activities, especially the draft transboundary project proposals developed by range states;
- Identification of regional leaders among the range states to revive the MOU;

Next steps

- Fundraising assistance for projects contributing to the implementation of the MOU;
- Updating of the 2012-2014 Medium-Term International Work Programme, funding permitting;

Activity 24: Memorandum of Understanding for the Conservation of the South Andean Huemul (*Hippocamelus bisulcus*)

Status of implementation

104. The CMS Secretariat acts as depositary of the MOU, while secretariat functions are provided by the Signatories themselves (Argentina and Chile) in rotation. The Bi-national Plan for the Conservation of the Huemul which Argentina and Chile signed in 2012 is available on the CMS Huemul webpage.

105. In February 2015 a delegation of Argentine rangers visited two reserves in the region of Biobío in southern Chile for joint monitoring, thereby strengthening transboundary cooperation as foreseen by the MOU.

106. In April 2015 the National Forestry Corporation (CONAF) of Chile carried out Huemul monitoring in Ñuble National Reserve and surrounding areas to *inter alia* assess the impact of forest fires in this region in March 2015. The survey results suggest that there was no impact on the Huemul population.

107. In Argentina, new conservation strategies have been developed to manage Huemul populations in sites affected by fires. Monitoring and Huemul research took place during the reporting period in the regions of Neuquén and Chubut, as well as the National Parks Los Alerces, Los Glaciares, Lago Puelo, Lanín, Nahuel Huapi and Perito Moreno, with emphasis on recently burned sites. Necropsy protocols were developed and camera traps installed. The Directorate of Fauna and Flora of Chubut has set up an online reporting form for Huemul information. The Huemul national data record under the Biodiversity Information System has been extended.

108. A document on ex-situ conservation has been prepared by a Technical Committee, as foreseen by the Bi-national plan. In Argentina the 5th Meeting of the Management Committee of the National Plan for Huemul was conducted during the reporting period. Government staff from different levels of jurisdiction involved in the conservation of Huemul were trained through workshops and other capacity-building means. Awareness raising and education was improved in schools and a number of communities, benefiting from printed information materials and an updated website.

Challenges

- None reported;

Next Steps

- Strengthen implementation of the binational Action Plan, for example through the expansion of existing protected areas, continued capacity building and education/outreach activities, strengthened monitoring and data management, including spatial mapping with inclusion of alien species and other threats

Activity 27: Action Plan for the conservation and restoration of the Sahelo-Saharan antelopes

Status of implementation

109. The CMS Action Plan on Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes has been updated under the chairmanship of the IUCN Antelope Specialist Group thanks to financial support from the US Fish & Wildlife Service's Conservation Enhancement Fund. It consists of two parts: status reports on the target species and population-specific actions adopted by the range states. The actions of the old Action Plan were last adopted by the 14 range states in 1998, the species status reports were updated in 2006.

The 15th Meeting of the Sahelo-Saharan Interest Group (29 April–1 May 2015, Abu Dhabi, UAE) reviewed the structure of the updated document and recommended to add the Barbary Sheep (*Ammotragus lervia*; Appendix II) to the Action Plan as requested by Algeria and Tunisia and to further add the Red-fronted Gazelle (*Eudorcas rufifrons*), which was added to CMS Appendix I by COP11. The draft updated Action Plan is currently undergoing technical review.

Challenges

- Lack of financial resources to implement Action Plan activities, as well as a Meeting of Range States;
- Challenging security situation in large parts of the Sahara and Sahel making wildlife management and anti-poaching operations more difficult;
- Oil and gas development threatens critical habitats in Niger and is already causing major disturbance;

Next Steps

- Reintroduction of Scimitar-horned Oryx into Chad in autumn 2015 thanks to strong long-term collaboration of multiple partners, Range States and donors;
- Meeting of Range States in 2016/2017, funding permitting;

III.4 SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY SERVICES

Activity 28: Implementation of Resolutions

Activity 28.1: Res. 11.25 Ecological Networks¹¹

Status of Implementation

110. COP11 adopted wide-ranging measures and recommendations to strengthen ecological networks and connectivity through Resolution 11.25, following on from Resolution 10.3 in 2011.

111. A specific activity foreseen by Res.11.1 provides for stimulating the implementation of the Resolution on Ecological Networks particularly in Africa by programme planning in 2015 and a kick-start meeting in 2016. In this regard, the Secretariat developed a project concept, which foresees as a first step the production of an assessment on the status of key migration corridors for large mammals in Africa, with a view to identifying those factors limiting conservation success and ultimately to identifying priorities for conservation action (species, habitats). The analysis would also aim at deepening the existing knowledge of ongoing efforts, and understanding where and how CMS can provide an added value as legal framework. In order to ensure high validation of the assessment as well as ownership of stakeholders, data collection and preparation will be done in a participatory and consultative process. A review phase is foreseen to give all stakeholders (e.g. IUCN SSGs, NGOs) the opportunity to further improve and comment on the assessment, which is expected to be concluded by an expert workshop to review and finalize the document, identify priority activities for pilot projects, and recommend coordination arrangements to ensure sustainable implementation. Active fundraising has been undertaken in order to secure resources to implement the activities mentioned above. At the time of writing, some positive replies have been received from potential donors, but funding has not been secured yet.

112. Amongst the CMS Family instruments, there have been numerous activities to better understand the movements of CMS-listed species, primarily through satellite collaring, for example in Ethiopia and South Sudan on White-eared Kob, in Kazakhstan on Saiga antelopes and for raptors

¹¹ This activity was listed as activity 34 at the original POW.

through the African Raptor Data Bank (ARDB), a citizen science non-profit project that already holds more than 100,000 records of birds of prey seen in Africa.

113. A significant contribution to the implementation of Res. 11.25 is expected to be provided by a technical workshop on connectivity scheduled for 28-30 September 2015 in the Veneto region of Italy thanks to the organization and fundraising by the Chair of the Scientific Council in close cooperation with the Veneto Po Delta Regional Park and UNESCO. Progress on this initiative is reported in more detail under the activity *facilitating the Work of the Scientific Council*.

114. At the invitation of the UAE Government, marine experts from 15 North-West Indian Ocean countries participated in a regional workshop to describe marine areas meeting criteria developed under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) EBSAs. The workshop was hosted by the UAE's Ministry of Environment and Water, and organized by the CBD Secretariat with support from CMS Office – Abu Dhabi. The Office mobilized CMS expert networks for marine mammals, marine turtles, sharks, and seabirds and arranged their inputs into the meeting, and with funding from the International Whaling Commission, it facilitated the participation of the CMS Appointed Councillor for Aquatic Mammals. Twelve of the participating countries were either CMS Parties and/or signatories to one or more CMS agreements. Thirty-one marine areas were described as meeting the EBSA criteria. Migratory species correlated strongly with 30 of the 31 areas described. Most proposals were for marine areas in national waters, but proposals also included transboundary areas as well as marine areas located beyond the limits of national jurisdiction as well.

115. The Secretariat provided inputs to the Strategy document “*Larger than elephant, inputs for an EU strategic approach to wildlife conservation in Africa*” developed by the Directorate General of Development and Cooperation (DG DevCo) of the European Commission, supporting relevant strategic elements such as the use and promotion of Key Landscapes for Conservation (KLC), Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCA) and individual sites of outstanding conservation value, and advocating the consideration of the connectivity dimension of critical sites, corridors, community-managed lands, the wider fabric of the landscape they sit within, and the ecological processes that bind them together.

Challenges

116. At the time of writing, prospects to raise funds to at least start the planned activities in Africa are good, but funding has not been confirmed yet, and the activity is currently on hold.

Next steps

117. Fundraising efforts to support the preparation of the assessment on the status of migration corridors in Africa will be continued. The assessment will be contracted out as soon as resources will become available.

Activity 28.2: Res. 11.27 Renewable Energy

Status of implementation

118. Res. 11.27 instructs the Secretariat to convene a multi-stakeholder Task Force on Reconciling Selected Energy Sector Developments with Migratory Species Conservation (the Energy Task Force). As initial steps towards the establishment of the TF, the Secretariat, in consultation with stakeholders, has worked towards the definition of elements of a Work Programme for the Task Force (TF) for the triennium 2015-2017, as well as activities for a TF Coordinator to facilitate the implementation of the Work Programme. Thanks to a generous voluntary contribution from the Government of Germany, resources have been secured for the coordination and basic functioning of the TF for the triennium 2015-2017. With a view to getting advice on prospective members of the

TF, the Secretariat has established a small advisory group composed of representatives of the AEWA Secretariat, CMS ScC and AEWA TC, BMUB and BirdLife International. At the time of writing, a meeting of the advisory group is being planned.

119. Contacts have been maintained between CMS and AEWA Secretariats and IRENA on the further development of the guidelines. This activity is however expected to be undertaken mainly after AEWA MOP6.

Challenges

120. In a multi-stakeholder TF like the one foreseen, in which multiple and potentially conflicting interests are expected to be represented, a key element for the success of the initiative is expected to be the careful selection of its initial membership. Hence the decision of the Secretariat to engage in consultations and seek advice from key partners and stakeholders for this crucial step.

Next steps

121. It is expected to have the TF established and operational in the last quarter of 2015, with a kick-off meeting of the TF to be convened either towards the end of 2015 or in the first quarter of 2016.

Activity 28.3: Resolution 11.31 on Fighting Wildlife Crime and Offences within and beyond Borders

122. Within the framework of its dedicated instruments, such as the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), the Gorilla Agreement, the MOUs on Elephants, Saiga Antelopes, Sharks, Raptors and IOSEA marine turtles (see relevant sections throughout this report) and the Joint CITES-CMS Work Programme 2015-2020, the CMS Family is actively addressing wildlife crime, with an emphasis on domestic poaching and trade. A factsheet on Wildlife Crime has been prepared and the CMS Management has raised the profile of the matter at numerous occasions, including recent meetings of the Collaborative Partnership on Wildlife Management (CPW) and the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee (28 June – 8 July 2015, Bonn, Germany).

Activity 29: Facilitating the Work of the Scientific Council

Status of implementation

123. Main efforts have been towards the implementation of provisions of Res.11.4, in particular the development of Terms of Reference for the Scientific Council (ScC) and the establishment of the Sessional Committee. These make the object of a dedicated document (UNEP/CMS/StC44/14) where more details can be found.

124. The Secretariat has provided assistance to the chair of the ScC in the organization of a CMS ScC workshop on connectivity. The Secretariat's input has concerned principally the definition of the list of invitees and the workshop's programme. The workshop is scheduled to take place in Venice from 28-30 September 2015, and is convened in cooperation with the Veneto Po Delta Regional Park and UNESCO. More details are expected to be provided in the report of the chair of the ScC to StC44.

Challenges

125. The absence of an appointed Sessional Committee has delayed the planning of activities of the ScC for the triennium 2015-2017. However, the current triennium constitutes a transitional phase to the new form of operation of the Scientific Council foreseen by Res.11.4, and the new organizational setting and procedures are expected to become fully operational as of COP12.

Next steps

126. It is foreseen to convene a first meeting of the Sessional Committee as soon as possible after its appointment by StC44, most likely in the first quarter of 2016.

Activity 30: Coordinating preparations of review report on the conservation status of species listed on CMS Appendices

Status of implementation

127. The Secretariat has liaised with various organizations that could provide input to this initiative, including UNEP-WCMC, IUCN Species Survival Commission, BirdLife International. A scoping workshop, aimed at identifying options and developing Terms of Reference is in the planning stage, and resources to convene it are being sought. Links of this report with the assessment of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species are also being explored.

Challenges

128. Efforts to secure financial resources for the production of the report have not been successful so far. The Secretariat is aiming at producing a project concept, in consultation with potential partners, providing for costed alternative options for the report, to be used for further fundraising efforts. Potential partners will be encouraged to participate also in fundraising efforts.

Next steps

129. Continue preparations and fundraising efforts for the convening of the scoping workshop above-mentioned

Activity 31: Coordinating Implementation of the Small Grant Programme

Status of implementation

130. Since COP11, work plans have been finalized and contracts signed with the implementing organizations for four projects selected for support within the 2014 cycle of the programme. Initial payments have been made and project implementation is being monitored. No new calls for project proposals is scheduled at the time of writing, in the absence of voluntary contributions in support of the programme.

Challenges

131. The programme requires significant resources to be meaningful. However, the identification of such resources through voluntary contributions is proving to be a challenge. A generous voluntary contribution from UNEP of US\$300,000 allowed to support the programme during the triennium 2012-2014, and contributions of the same order of magnitude would be needed for the current triennium for the programme to have an impact, and justify the amount of effort needed by all actors to keep it running in the current setting.

Next steps

- Continue monitoring current projects until completion
- Consider alternatives to the current organizational setting for the programme

Activity 32: Development of Atlas on Animal Migration

Status of implementation

132. This is an ambitious initiative, which if it will take off is expected to be continued also in future triennia. For the current triennium, the POW foresees to start with migratory birds in the African Eurasian region. The Secretariat has liaised with the chair of the ScC and other stakeholders with a view to building support for the initiative, and develop terms of reference (ToR) and a detailed project concept. A dedicated session on this initiative is scheduled within the ScC workshop on connectivity.

Challenges

- This is an ambitious initiative for which the Convention is expected to play a catalytic role. A main challenge will be to generate support to, and participation in the initiative from the research and conservation practitioners communities across a broad range of taxa. In this regard, the ScC is expected to play a crucial role in reaching out to these communities.
- Even assuming an implementation of the initiative by modules, resources needed are expected to be very significant, probably beyond the possibilities of the Convention's traditional donors. The need to approach other types of donors/funding programmes is therefore anticipated.

Next steps

- Further development and finalization of a project concept and ToR for the initiative
- Continue efforts to generate support for the initiative within the research and conservation practitioners communities
- Approach potential donors for fundraising

Activity 33: Facilitate the Implementation of the Programme of Work on Climate Change and Prepare Progress Report to COP12

Status of implementation

133. Preparatory work for the convening of a meeting of the Working Group on Climate Change established within the ScC has been undertaken in consultation between the Secretariat and the COP-appointed Councillor for climate change. Discussions with a view to identifying possible collaboration have been initiated with potential partners such as the Bern Convention and the IUCN SSC Specialist Group on Climate Change.

Challenges

134. Efforts to secure resources for the convening of the meeting of the Working Group on Climate Change have not been successful so far. While the convening of a physical meeting of the Working Group remains the preferred option to develop a work plan for the triennium and kick-start action, alternatives are being explored.

Next steps

- Continue fundraising efforts to convene the meeting of the Working Group on Climate Change
- Continue contacts with potential partners to identify synergies and collaborations

IV RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND INTERAGENCY AFFAIRS

Status of Implementation

135. Significant progress has been made both on raising funding for the implementation of priority activities for 2015 as well as following years and on strengthening collaboration with MEAs and with IGOs and Civil Society. A process to engage with the GEF process has been set up. Details are included in the separate reports being UNEP/CMS/StC44/10.4 “Resource Mobilization” and UNEP/CMS/StC44/18 “Synergies and Partnerships” respectively.

Challenges

- Unfortunately no progress has been made to strengthen the regional presence of CMS in Africa, the Pacific and Latin America. The establishment of regional coordinators in these three regions was included in the list of funding priorities sent to all Parties in April 2015. No funding has been obtained to date.
- The CMS Ambassadors were engaged with the promotion of the World Migratory Bird Day (May 2015) and readily provided statements in support of the campaign. The Secretariat did not have the opportunity to work on the expansion of the programme.

Next Steps

- Continue identifying funding opportunities and approaching potential donors;
- Continue strengthening in existing collaborations and engaging in strategic ones;
- Explore other ways to establish the above-mentioned regional coordinators;
- Revamp and expand the CMS Ambassadors programme to support CMS implementation.

V INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH

Status of implementation

136. As a first step to developing a Communication Strategy for the entire CMS Family, a consultant has been engaged to develop strategically aligned Communications Strategies for CMS and AEWA. Workshops to support the development of the communication strategy and communication action plans around specific topics will be convened if and when resources allow. Similarly, a project to development of common branding for the CMS Family will commence when resources become available.

137. As a pilot project to examine the feasibility of greater collaborative work and synergies within the CMS Family, a joint Communication, Information Management and Awareness-raising Unit was established in January 2014 to serve CMS and AEWA. The joint Unit oversaw this year’s successful World Migratory Bird Day, for which the website had been revamped, and contributions were made to World Environment Day, World Wildlife Day and similar public awareness-raising campaigns. A number of op-eds (opposite the editorial articles) have been prepared and were published in various media. Press releases were prepared, interviews arranged for several meetings and events. Information was provided to the media and via the website following the mass-mortality incident in which 134,000 Saiga antelopes died in Kazakhstan in May 2015, an event which has triggered unprecedented global media interest.

138. The Joint Unit has contributed to the design, editing and drafting of a number of in-house publications, including fact sheets and technical material. In 2015, a strong focus of the Unit is to support communication efforts around AEWA MOP6 scheduled to take place in November 2015.

The CMS Family website launched in March 2014 continues to be maintained with available in-house capacity and the joint Unit is also participating in the steering committee of several related information management related initiatives, for example the MEA Information and Knowledge Management Initiative and an EU-funded project to further enhance the Online Reporting System (ORS) for MEAs.

Challenges

- Securing funding to 1.) ensure basic technical maintenance and further development of the CMS Family website, 2.) run a workshop to develop the communications strategy and 3.) carry out a professional branding project for the CMS Family
- Finalization of the recruitment of a part-time P2 position to supervise the website as approved by COP11 which is still pending. The gap presently being filled by a short-term consultancy

Next Steps

- Continue work on developing Communication Strategies
- Continue to further develop and improve the CMS Family website and other online tools such as the Online National Reporting System (improve usability)
- Assess effectiveness of joint Communications Unit and scope for further extending inter-Secretariat cooperation in the area of communications, information management and outreach
- Devise a strategy for improving the long-term management of the World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) campaign and how to support implementation of COP11 Resolution on obtaining official UN Status for WMBD through the UN General Assembly

VI CAPACITY-BUILDING

Activity 1: Capacity-Building

Status of implementation

139. Building capacity is a mandate for CMS. It is essential requirement which ensures that migratory species are adequately protected across the globe and conservation measures are followed through in the long term. Therefore capacity-building needs are to be addressed by encouraging the comprehensive tools e.g. the CMS Family Manual. The manual has been introduced and assessed in workshops and yielded good results. From the feedback of the pre-COP11 workshops, it has become apparent that is a very useful tool. In order to make it even more applicable translation into Portuguese and Arabic should be considered. Currently it is available in English, French, Spanish and Russian.

140. National progress and weaknesses are to be monitored by conducting regular workshops in regions that require the most assistance. The funds stem from the ACP MEA Phase II Project, which places an emphasis on Africa, the Pacific and the Caribbean as well as on synergies among MEAs. The reports from the series of workshops will determine whether the regions and institutional capacity are becoming stronger. This will also provide feedback on what is needed and what can be offered in return, hence refining the capacity-building strategy. Once good capacity, has been established, through for instance training of the trainers, passing on the shared knowledge should be encouraged.

141. NBSAPs are seen as the lead tool in an ecosystem approach to both biodiversity and conservation management. The integration into NBSAPs can often be seen as not only important for the conservation of migratory species but for the overall national biodiversity and sustainability. Additionally NBSAPs are encouraged to address direct threats, such as climate change, pollution, illegal killing and invasive species, which can often have a more pronounced effect on migratory

species. One of the priorities for the Secretariat is to contribute to, and where appropriate, participate in the NBSAP process. At the same time during Capacity-Building Workshop participants are called upon to do the same and are informed about the CMS Guidelines on how to integrate migratory species into NBSAPs.

Activity 2: Regional Meetings

142. Regions with previously weak representation at negotiation meetings will be fortified by thoroughly preparing them for COP12 and encouraging regional alliances. As proven in the past, thoughtfully preparing regions that were previously underrepresented in the decision-making concerning CMS issues has a significantly positive effect on active COP participation. This ought to be maintained and amplified in the future. The Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) project sponsored by the European Commission is supporting this capacity-building activity for the regions of Africa and Latin America and the Pacific.

Activity 3: Recruitment of new Parties

143. Recruitment of new Parties and assistance for the ratification process will strengthen regional capacity and provide a gap analysis of national requirements in the process leading to and beyond accession. Currently, the Party map of CMS is unbalanced. While regions such as Europe, Africa and South America are well represented, large gaps can still be found in North and Central America, the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific. Currently, such recruitment events are foreseen in 2015 and 2016 for Latin America, South-East Asia and the Pacific under the GPGC project as well as one for the Caribbean as part of the ACP MEAs Phase II. Filling these gaps will provide a more even representation of conservation interests and cover a wider protective corridor of migration routes. Furthermore, these recruitment events are a good opportunity to highlight the many benefits CMS brings to the conservation table, raising the CMS profile on the global stage. In addition, conducting such face-to-face meetings efficiently collects information on country-specific obstacles and challenges together with up-to-date knowledge on the status of the accession process for each participating Non-Party. Regular and directed follow-up with dedicated national contact points is key to the success of this operation. Complementary to the workshops, a document to support Non-Parties with legal advice on accession could be created.

Challenges

144. Although funds for the implementation of the capacity-building activities have been secured for this triennium through the European Commission (ACP Phase II and GPGC), the limited human resources available could affect the development of these activities

Next Steps

- To seek opportunities and ways to increase the human resources needed to implement the activities mentioned-above
- To identify species Capacity Building needs of countries with respect to species conservation
- To continue to promote integration of migratory species in NBSAPs

VII SERVICING OF GOVERNING BODIES AND OTHER MEETINGS

145. During the second half of 2013 the Conference Service Team (CST) was established. By pooling the secretaries together that used to work at that time for e.g. the Agreement Officer, the Scientific Advisor and the Inter-Agency Liaison Officer a new Team was created. This reorganization has led to a change in how the Secretariat manages its work in respect to making the necessary

arrangements for meetings, a core task of the Secretariat. Besides being part of the CST, each member is also focal point for one of the Species Teams or the Scientific Advisor. In that capacity they act as Secretary to that Team. The current Team is very small and consists of one full-time Conference Service Assistant, three part-time Team Assistants and one part-time Report Writer/ Proofreader of English. The CST works very closely with the AFMU e.g. in respect to contracting out some services and travel arrangements for funded delegates. Ideally a Conference Service Officer should head this Team but this post does not exist currently and for the time being, the Deputy Executive Secretary is Acting Head. With the limited human resources within the CST good planning and organization are essential to ensure that the Team can deliver the services that are expected.

Activity 1: The 12th Meeting of Conference of Parties

146. Early 2015 contact has been made with, the Government of the Philippines, the Host of COP12. It has become clear that the Host already has taken steps to establish a Committee to organize COP12, including identifying a suitable venue in Manila. An official visit by the Secretariat to meet the authorities, the Committee and to visit the venue is planned for early October 2015.

Activity 2: The Standing Committee

147. Since COP11 the Executive Secretary has had regular contact with the Chair of the StC to keep him abreast of developments of importance. As usual all Staff have been involved to varying degrees in drafting of the substantive documents for StC44. The Conference Service Team has taken care of the logistical arrangements for StC44 and of document production.

Activity 3: Scientific Council

148. At regular intervals the Scientific Advisor, as well as the Executive Secretary, have been in contact with the Chair of the Scientific Council. A meeting of the new Scientific Council Sessional Committee is foreseen in 2016.

Activity 4: Servicing and organizing other CMS meeting

149. The CST has been taken care of service and organizing other CMS meeting. These meetings, mostly Meetings of Signatories to MOU and/ or Workshop have been reported on earlier in this document under the Team that is responsible for the substance of these meetings.

New activity: CMS Family Retreat

150. To increase the cooperation within the CMS Secretariat as well as among the different entities of the CMS Family, a retreat took place from 23-25 June 2015 in the neighbourhood of Bonn. This retreat was attended by all staff of AEW, EUROBATS and CMS (including the CMS Abu Dhabi Office) and the Executive Secretaries of ACAP and the Agreement on the Conservation of Seals in the Wadden Sea, which is handled by the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat. During this retreat amongst other things the colleagues dealing with avian or aquatic species reviewed and discussed the possibilities of increasing corporation amongst themselves and to increase exchange of information. Furthermore some concrete proposals have been made to improve planning processes and the organization of work. A Working Group with representatives from AEW, EUROBATS and CMS Secretariat has been establish to further elaborate some of the proposals that have come up in the months to come.

Challenges

151. The Secretariat is charged with the organization of several meetings of governing bodies, Meetings of Signatories to MOUs, Workshops, etc. It is a challenge for the small CST to provide all services that are expected from it.

Next Steps

- To explore opportunities and ways to increase the human capacity of the CST
- To further improve the planning process and organization of work for meetings and events.

I. EXECUTIVE DIRECTION AND MANAGEMENT

	Activities	Priority ranking	2015					Status	Accomplishments	Notes
			Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
					Needed	Obtained	Source			
1	Providing overall management of the Secretariat, including regular Management meetings	Core						Improved planning and organization of work	Further improvements are needed and is a priority for the Management.	
2	Supervising the administrative and financial management of the Secretariat	Core						Move from IMIS to Umoja	Implementation of/ familiarization with the new Administrative system 'Umoja' has and is still taken up a lot of Staff time.	
3	Representing CMS and/or CMS Family; raising awareness, visibility, etc.	Core						CMS has been represented at several external as well internal (UN/ UNEP) meetings.	An overview of meetings attended can be found in the first part of this Report.	
4	Independent analysis of synergies in the CMS family	Core	50,000	50,000					The Consultant will deliver the draft Report by 7th of September 2015.	
5	Res. 11.6 Review of Decisions · Review of Resolutions and Recommendations and development of proposal on which ones should be repealed	High							Postponed till 2016 Funding may be needed in 2016	
6	Res. 11.7 Process to Review Implementation · Development of Terms of Reference for a Working Group for consideration of the 44th meeting of the Standing Committee	High							Postponed till 2016 Funding may be needed in 2016	
	Total		50,000	50,000						

Additional activities from COP Resolutions and decisions

GREEN corresponds to **80% to 100%** achievement of results. Implementation is on track and aligns with the plan

YELLOW corresponds to **50% to 79%** achievement of results. Minor deviation(s) to the plan are identified and corrective measures are taken. Corrective measures will be detailed in the report

RED corresponds to **0% to 49%** achievement of results. Implementation is not on track and deviates a lot from the plan. Corrective measures are taken and detailed in the report

II. STRATEGIC PLAN

No	Activities	Priority ranking	2015					Status	Accomplishments	Notes
			Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
					Needed	Obtained	Source			
1	Strategic Plan Working Group	High	30,000	15,000	3,000	12,000	Germany	SPIWG established; 1 meeting of SPWG convened in 2015	SPIWG meeting hold back-to-back to StC44	
2	Further development of the Strategic Plan (Indicators, Companion Volume)	High	25,000			25,000	Germany	Some resources to progress the development of the Indicators and companion volume through consultancies have been secured. Terms of Reference are being developed in consultation with the SPIWG with a view to tendering the assignment.	This activity is expected to cover the entire triennium.	
3	Consider amendments to the format for National Reports in respect of assessing implementation of the Strategic Plan and indicators	High	10,000					No significant progress so far. Some discussion expected to take place during the SPIWG meeting and StC44 in October 2015.	Activity expected to be undertaken mainly in 2016, in parallel with the development of indicators and the Companion Volume. A revised version of the template for National Reports expected to be presented to StC45 for endorsement, with a view to its use for national reporting to COP12.	
Total			65,000	15,000	3,000	37,000				

III.1 IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT – AQUATIC TEAM

No.	Activities	Priority ranking	2015					Status	Accomplishments	Notes
			Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
					Needed	Obtained	Source			
2	Implementation of Resolutions									
2.1	Res. 10.14 - By-catch of CMS listed Species in Gillnet fisheries · Review existing measures and identify non-lethal options to mitigate shark attacks · Workshop on mitigating measures for CMS species including turtles and sharks	Medium High	50,000 15,000		50,000 15,000			Have organized a joint CMS/IOTC capacity-building workshop for managers of the IOTC Regional Observer Scheme from Iran, Oman and Pakistan.	Scheduled for October 2015, in Oman.	
2.2	Res. 10.15 - Global Programme of Work for Cetaceans	High						Work planning with Appointed Councilor for Aquatic Mammals and Aquatic Mammals WG members underway		
2.3	Res.11.20 - Conservation of Sharks and Rays · Sharks and Rays (Identify the needs of training and capacity development) · Sharks and Rays (Build capacity to improve the implementation of these species)	High High	250,000 100,000		250,000 100,000			Shark ID guide developed for NW Indian Ocean	Workshops to be undertaken if and when funding is available	

III.1 IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT – AQUATIC TEAM

No.	Activities	Priority ranking	2015				Status	Accomplishments	Notes	
			Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
					Needed	Obtained				Source
2.4	Res. 11.22 - Live Captures of Cetaceans from the Wild for Commercial Purposes · Review of status of legislation	High	15,000		10,000	5,000		Review underway; 37 national responses to questionnaire on national legislation received to date.	Analysis will be finalized for presentation to COP12.	
2.5	Res. 11.23 - Conservation Implications of Cetaceans Culture · Supporting the Expert group · Development of a publication on findings of the expert group · Meeting of the expert group	Medium Medium			10,000 40,000			Expert group established. TOR and workplan developed.		
2.6	Res. 10.24 - Further steps to abate underwater noise pollution for the protection of cetaceans and other migratory species · Development of guidelines on EIA	High	20,000		20,000		Monaco	TOR for Guidelines developed and being discussed with ASCOBANS and ACCOBAMS. CMS has joined Joint Noise Working Group.		
2.7	Res. 11.29 - Sustainable Boat-based Marine Wildlife Watching · Review of existing guidelines and development of guidelines on different taxa	High			20,000				To be undertaken if and when funding is available	

III.1 IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT – AQUATIC TEAM

No	Activities	Priority ranking	2015				Status	Accomplishments	Notes	
			Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
					Needed	Obtained				Source
2.8	Res. 11.30 - Management of Marine debris									
	· Translation of existing debris leaflet into further languages	High	12,500			12,500	Norway	Translation of leaflets underway.	Delayed by Umoja implementation.	
	· Collaboration with regional and global instruments and possible creation of a multilateral working group	Medium	10,000		10,000			Discussion held with UNEP on Marine Litter partnership.		
New	Polar Bears (listed on App II at COP 11)	Medium							Discussions ongoing with Norwegian Govt on hosting symposium in 2016.	To be undertaken if and when funding is available
	· Symposium on Polar bears and Climate change		60,000		60,000					
New	European Eels (listed on App II at COP11)	Medium							Discussion ongoing with stakeholders.	To be undertaken if and when funding is available
	· Scientific Symposium on the status and conservation needs of Eels, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders e.g. Sargasso Sea Alliance		70,000		70,000					
3	The Atlantic Turtle MoU								Developing cooperation agreement with Abidjan convention	To be undertaken if and when funding is available
	· Revitalisation of the MoU by organizing a brainstorming meeting	High	45,000		45,000					
	· Coordination (By UNV together with Abidjan Convention)	High	10,000		10,000					
	· Supporting implementation	High	40,000		40,000					
	· Organizing Third Meeting of Signatories	High							To be undertaken if and when funding is available	

III.1 IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT – AQUATIC TEAM

No.	Activities	Priority ranking	2015				Status	Accomplishments	Notes	
			Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contribution					
					Needed	Obtained				Source
4	The Western African Aquatic Mammal MoU									
	· Revitalization of the MoU by organizing a brainstorming meeting	High	35,000		35,000			To be undertaken if and when funding is available		
	· Supporting implementation	High	40,000		40,000			To be undertaken if and when funding is available		
	· Organizing First Meeting of Signatories	High								
5	The Pacific Islands Cetaceans MoU									
	· Outsourcing of the technical coordination	High	10,000		10,000					
	· Development of advisory Committee workspace	High	2,800			2,800	New Zealand			
	· Supporting implementation	Medium	50,000		50,000					
	· Organizing Fourth Meeting of Signatories	High						to be undertaken if and when funding is available		
6	The Mediterranean Monk Seal MoU									
	· Organizing meeting to revise the Action Plan	Low						Scheduled for 2017		
7	The Sharks MoU									
	· Providing in kind support from the CMS Secretariat	High								
	· Organizing the 2nd Meeting of Signatories (costs of the meeting to be covered by MoU Trust Fund)	High					Preparation for MOS2 underway, documents being developed.	MOS2 scheduled 15-19 February 2016 in San Jose, Costa Rica.		

III.1 IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT - AQUATIC TEAM

No	Activities	Priority ranking	2015					Status	Accomplishments	Notes
			Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contribution					
					Needed	Obtained	Source			
8	The Pacific Loggerhead Turtle Action Plan Initiating and stimulating the implementation of the Action Plan.	Medium	50,000		30,000	20,000	Australia		Focal points established in most Range states, discussions ongoing with Inter-American Turtle Convention and SPREP.	
Total			900,300	0	930,000	40,300				

III.2 IMPLEMENTATIONSUPPORT - AVIAN SPECIES TEAM

No.	Activities	Priority ranking	2015					Status	Accomplishments	Notes
			Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
					Needed	Obtained	Source			
11	Implementation of Resolutions									
11.1	Res. 11.14 - The Programme of Work for Migratory Birds and Flyways · Coordination of and organization - funds permitting- of a meeting on Americas Flyways	High	56,500		56,500				A flyways workshop is planned in 2016 with a focus on the Americas	
11.2	Res. 11.15 - Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds · Coordination of the WG and organization -funds permitting- of a meeting of the WG back-to-back with sub-regional workshop to identify priorities within the Action Plan	High	50,000		50,000		EC		A workshop on bird poisoning in the southern African region is planned for 24 August 2015, back to back with the AEWA pre-MOP	
11.3	Res. 11.16 - Preventing Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds · Coordination and meeting of the Mediterranean Task Force	High	150,000		0	150,000	EC	Task-force and consultative consultation group set up	Coordination is covered for 3 years	
11.4	Res. 11.17 - Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region · Coordination of the WG and organization -funds permitting- of a meeting of the WG back-to-back with sub-regional workshop to identify priorities within the Action Plan	High	70,000		30,000	40,000	Switzerland	A teleconference of the Steering Group was organized on the 12 June 2015	A meeting of the landbirds working group is planned for the end of November 2015 in Abidjan	

III.2 IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT - AVIAN SPECIES TEAM

No.	Activities	Priority ranking	2015					Status	Accomplishments	Notes
			Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
					Needed	Obtained	Source			
12	<p>The Aquatic Warbler MoU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Organizing the 3rd Meeting of Signatories. · Supporting implementation. · Outsourcing of the technical coordination. 	Medium	0		0					<p>The 3rd Meeting of Signatories took place the 20-22 May 2015 in Lithuania. Costs were covered by an EU LIFE project on Baltic Aquatic Warbler.</p> <p>A contract outsourcing the coordination of the MOU was signed in June 2015</p>
		Medium	50,000		50,000					
		High	11,600		11,600	11,600	Switzerland			
13	<p>The Great Bustard MoU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Organizing the 4th Meeting of Signatories. 	Medium								The meeting is planned for 2017 and will be hosted by Germany
14	<p>The Ruddy-headed Goose MoU</p>	Low								The MOU is coordinated by Chile and Argentina
15	<p>The Slender-billed Curlew MoU</p>	Low								

III.2 IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT - AVIAN SPECIES TEAM

No.	Activities	Priority ranking	2015					Status	Accomplishments	Notes
			Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
					Needed	Obtained	Source			
16	The Siberian Crane MoU									
	· Participate in conservation planning workshop for eastern flyway	High						Workshop completed	The workshop took place 1-8 June in China. Travel costs of CMS Secretariat were covered by the International Crane Foundation	
	· Organizing the 8th Meeting of Signatories.	Medium							There are plans to organize the next MOS in China, funds permitting	
	· Supporting implementation.	Medium	50,000							
	· Outsourcing of the technical coordination	High	10,000		10,000				Funds are needed to outsource coordination to the International Crane Foundation	
17	The Andean Flamingos MoU									
	· Organizing Meeting of Signatories	High	10,000		10,000			Ongoing	The meeting is planned for October 2015, hosted by Peru in the city of Cusco	
	· Supporting implementation	High	50,000		50,000					
18	The South American Grassland Birds MoU									
	· Organizing Meeting of Signatories	High								
	· Supporting implementation.	High	50,000		50,000					
New	Baer's Pochard Action Plan									
	· Action Plan to be submitted to COP12 for adoption	Medium							Action Plan has been developed by WWT and meanwhile adopted by EAAFP.	
New	Eastern Curlew									
	· Development of an Action Plan	Medium			0				The Action Plan is being developed by an ad hoc Task Force under the East Asian Australasian Flyway Partnership	

III.2 IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT TEAM - AVIAN SPECIES TEAM

No.	Activities	Priority ranking	2015					Status	Accomplishments	Notes
			Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
					Needed	Obtained	Source			
New	Yellow breasted Bunting · Development of an Action Plan	Medium			0				Discussion ongoing with BirdLife International for the organization of an action planning workshop	
New	Asian Great Bustard · Scientific Conference for development of an Action Plan	Low	40,000		40,000				This subspecies of Great Bustard was listed on Appendix I at COP11. Resources to organize this conference have not been found yet	
	Total		598,100	0	358,100	201,600				

III.3 IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT TEAM – TERRESTRIAL SPECIES TEAM

No.	Activities	Priority ranking	2015					Status	Accomplishments	Notes
			Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
					Needed	Obtained	Source			
20	Implementation of Resolutions									
20.1	Res. 11.13 'Concerted and Cooperative Action' African Wild dog (Res. 11.13, Appendix II) · Strengthen the implementation of IUCN Regional Strategies and National Action Plans	Medium								
	Cheetah (Res. 11.13, Appendix I) · Strengthen the implementation of IUCN Regional Strategies and National Action Plans · Conduct cheetah workshop in Iran and develop a regional programme for conservation and restoration of cheetah (CAMI Work Programme 2.3, Res.11.24)	Medium							To be implemented when funding is available	
	African savannah and forest elephant (Res. 11.13, Appendix II) · Strengthen mapping and conservation of transboundary corridors · Facilitate strengthened transboundary monitoring (e.g. SMART)	Medium							To be implemented when funding is available To be implemented when funding is available	
	White-eared Kob (Res. 11.13, Appendix II) · Transboundary workshop to strengthen protected area network based on satellite-collar data from ongoing project	Medium	10,700			99,862	Norway		Mapping of multi-species ecological corridor across Ethiopia and South Sudan.	The workshop is part of a larger satellite-collaring project.

III.3 IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT TEAM – TERRESTRIAL SPECIES TEAM

No.	Activities	Priority ranking	2015					Status	Accomplishments	Notes
			Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
					Needed	Obtained	Source			
	<p>African bats (Res. 11.13, Appendix II)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gaps and needs assessment to guide targeted action within CMS framework 	Medium	30,000			30,000			To be implemented when funding is available	
20.2	<p>Res. 11.24 The Central Asian Mammals Initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associate Programme Officer for CAMI (full-time) CAMI Work Programme implementation (Res.11.24, Table 1), where high priority activities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 1.1 on illegal hunting and trade: e.g. capacity building/training for rangers and law enforcement personnel, support national legislative review, strengthen monitoring methods and application Section 1.2 on overgrazing and livestock competition: e.g. Educational programmes on wildlife protection among herding communities, facilitate working group to address compromises for pasture use and wildlife protection issues Section 1.3 on Infrastructure: e.g. strengthen knowledge and dissemination on species/landscape mapping, develop outreach materials on barriers to migration, establishment of multi-agency taskforces for large infrastructure projects, organize expert working group meetings, organize technical infrastructure workshops 	High	96,102	45,102		51,000		Interim consultant since February 2015; recruitment for CAMI Officer foreseen later in 2015	50% position covered by CMS budget since COP11	
		High	240,000			240,000			Cost estimates are minimum estimates for triennium	
		High	310,000			310,000			Cost estimates are minimum estimates for triennium	
		High	160,000			160,000			Cost estimates are minimum estimates for triennium	

III.3 IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT TEAM – TERRESTRIAL SPECIES TEAM

No.	Activities	Priority ranking	2015					Status	Accomplishments	Notes	
			Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions						
					Needed	Obtained	Source				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop to promote the Guidelines for Addressing the Impact of Linear Infrastructure on Large Migratory Mammals in Central Asia Section 1.4. on good governance of natural resource management/ policy and legislation: e.g. Facilitate expert working group for scaling up successful national policies to regional level, technical workshops on border fence sectors, agriculture, infrastructure; best 50 practice guidelines (e.g. monitoring) Section 1.5 on Human needs/community engagement in conservation: e.g. Promotion of sustainable livelihood schemes, develop materials for educators and develop activities to communicate conservation message, strengthen ecotourism Section 1.6 on Scientific Knowledge: e.g. Conduct gap analysis to understand species-specific knowledge gaps Section 1.7 on transboundary cooperation: e.g. Build on existing processes and structures, promote benefits of cooperation Kick-start coordination and implementation of the Single Species Action Plan on the Conservation of Argali 	High	30,000				30,000	Germany (BMUB, BfN)		Priority actions, lessons learnt and Trans-Mongolian railway modifications (see agenda)	25-29 August 2015, UB, Mongolia
		High	85,000			85,000					Cost estimates are minimum estimates for triennium
		High	20,000			20,000					Cost estimates are minimum estimates for triennium
		High	25,000			25,000					Cost estimates are minimum estimates for triennium
		High	5,000			5,000					Cost estimates are minimum estimates for triennium
		High	40,000			40,000					
20.3	<p>International Single Species Action Plan for the conservation of Argali</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kick-start coordination and implementation of the Single Species Action Plan on the Conservation of Argali 	High	40,000			40,000					

III.3 IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT TEAM – TERRESTRIAL SPECIES TEAM

No.	Activities	Priority ranking	2015					Status	Accomplishment	Notes
			Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
					Needed	Obtained	Source			
20.4	<p>Res. 11.32 Conservation and Management of the African Lion, <i>Panthera leo</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessing the population and conservation status of lions within range states through a questionnaire for presentation at StC44 Organizing a meeting of range states to assess and evaluate the implementation of the Conservation Strategy for the lion in Eastern and Southern Africa (2006) and the Conservation Strategy for the lion in West and Central Africa (2006), and develop regional conservation action plans 	High	120,000	-	120,000				To be implemented when funding is available	
21	<p>The Saiga MoU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalization of the National Report Format and revision and update of the Medium Term International Work Programme 2010-2015 Outsourcing of the technical coordination Supporting implementation (e.g. Capacity building for wildlife health authorities, modification of border fence, equipment for protected areas) Organizing Third Meeting of Signatories (26-29 October 2015, Tashkent) 	High	18,153		18,153	Germany				
		High	10,000		10,000					
		High	170,000		170,000					
		High	35,000		15,000	20,000	UNEP ROE			
22	<p>The Bukhara Deer MoU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting implementation and outsourcing technical implementation of the MOU Organizing technical workshop and 2nd Meeting of Signatories 	Medium	50,000		50,000					
		Medium	55,000		55,000				Foreseen for 2016/2017	
23	<p>The Western African Elephant MoU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updating the Medium Term International Work Programme Supporting implementation (e.g. Follow-up workshop in Burkina Faso on community-based anti-poaching) Organizing Third Meeting of Signatories 	High								
		High	40,000		40,000					
		High	55,000		55,000					

III.3 IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT TEAM – TERRESTRIAL SPECIES TEAM

No.	Activities	Priority ranking	2015					Status	Accomplishment	Notes
			Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
					Needed	Obtained	Source			
24	The Huemul Deer MoU · Implemented by Argentina and Chile through a bi-national Action Plan	Low								
25	The Sahelo/Saharan Antelope Action Plan · Updating and review of the 1998/2006 Action Plan · Organising meeting of range states to adopt the Action Plan (2016/2017)	Medium	-	-						
		Medium	18,590	-		18,590	USFWS			
26	The Gorilla Agreement · Outsourcing of the technical coordination · Supporting implementation (including GRASP-CMS project) · Organizing the 3rd Meeting of Parties back-to-back with the next GRASP Meeting (Indonesia 2016)	High	25,000		25,000					
		High	50,000	26,962	23,038		GA Parties			
		High	60,000		60,000				Postponed to 2016	
Total			1,798,545	72,064	1,629,038	186,605				

III.4 SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY SERVICE

No.	Activities	Priority ranking	2015					Status	Accomplishment	Notes
			Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
					Needed	Obtained	Source			
28 Implementation of Resolutions										
28.1	Res. 11.25 – Ecological Networks · Stimulating the implementation of the Resolution on Ecological Networks particularly in Africa by programme planning in 2015 and a kick-start meeting in 2016	High	50,000		50,000				Project concept developed and submitted to potential donors for funding. Progress in various other relevant activities within the CMS Family, and in the collaboration with other relevant organizations (CBD, UNESCO)	
28.2	Res. 11. 27 Renewable Energy · Coordination and operation of the Energy Task Force	High	60,000			60,000	Germany		Preliminary Programme of Work for the TF and the Coordinator agreed. Identification of members of the TF in progress.	Same funding is provided for 2016 and 2017
	· Contributing to the further development of the Guidelines	High							Contacts have been maintained between CMS and AEWa Secretariats and IRENA on the further development of the guidelines	This activity is expected to be undertaken mainly after AEWa MOP6

III.4 SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY SERVICE

No.	Activities	Priority ranking	2015				Status	Accomplishment	Notes	
			Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
					Needed	Obtained				Source
28.3	<p>Res. 11.31 Fighting Wildlife Crime and offences within and beyond the borders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity-building for rangers, customs, police, military and other relevant bodies Strengthen collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including ICCWC and each of its partner agencies (CITES, INTERPOL, UNODC, the World Bank and the WCO), UNEP, Regional Fishery Management Organizations (RFMOs), and regional Wildlife Enforcement Networks (WENs) and Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW) 		- 200,000	- -		200,000			To be implemented when funding is available	
29	<p>Facilitating the Work of the Scientific Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assisting ScC Chair in organizing a Scientific Council workshop on Connectivity 	Core	25,000			25,000	Regional Po Delta Park	Preparations for the workshop are progressing well at the time of writing. Workshop scheduled to be held in Venice from 28-30 September 2015.	Activity led by the ScC Chair, with the Secretariat providing advice notably as regards experts' attendance and workshop programme	

III.4 SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY SERVICE

No.	Activities	Priority ranking	2015					Status	Accomplishment	Notes
			Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
					Needed	Obtained	Source			
	<p>Devise a consultative process to advise StC and COP on the composition of the Sessional Committee</p> <p>Develop Terms of Reference for the ScC</p>							<p>Options for a consultative process for the appointment of the Sessional Committee of the ScC by COP12 and subsequent COP meetings are submitted to StC44 for consideration. With a view to the appointment of the Sessional Committee for the period 2015-2017 by StC44, the Secretariat solicited and compiled expressions of interest to be members of the Committee from members of the ScC</p> <p>Draft Terms of Reference for the ScC have been compiled by the Secretariat and are being submitted to StC44 for its consideration</p>	<p>More detail provided in document UNEP/CMS/StC44/14</p> <p>More detail provided in document UNEP/CMS/StC44/14</p>	

III.4 SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY SERVICE

No.	Activities	Priority ranking	2015					Status	Accomplishment	Notes
			Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
					Needed	Obtained	Source			
30	<p>Conservation status of CMS species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinating preparations of review report on the conservation status of species listed on CMS Appendices 	High	100,000		100,000				Workshop with key partners (IUCN, WCMC, BLI, WI) to develop proposal for the ToR and format of the report being planned. Activity identified as priority for fundraising efforts.	Linked to assessment of Strategic Plan implementation
31	Implementation of the Small Grants Programme	High	100,000		100,000				Contracts signed between the Secretariat and the implementing agencies for projects funded under the 2014 cycle, and project Implementation being monitored.	New calls for project proposals will be made only in the presence of voluntary contributions in support of the programme
32	<p>Development of Atlas on Animal Migration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Starting with the African Eurasian region, migratory birds atlas taking into consideration ones already existing 	High	750,000		750,000				ToR and project concept being developed. Dedicated session on this initiative scheduled within the ScC workshop on connectivity	Initiative developed in consultation with the ScC
33	<p>Facilitate the implementation of the Programme of Work on Climate Change and prepare progress report to COP12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizing 1st meeting of the Climate Change Working Group 	High	35,000		35,000				Concept for the meeting being developed in consultation between the Secretariat and the COP-appointed councilor for Climate Change	
	Total		1,320,000	0	1,235,000	85,000				

IV. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND INTERAGENCY AFFAIRS

No.	Activities	Priority ranking	2015					Status	Accomplishments	Notes
			Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
					Needed	Obtained	Source			
1	Resource Mobilization · Developing project proposals · Identifying potential donors, liaise with them on new proposals and/ or report to them ongoing/finalized projects · Pursue partnerships with the Private Sector incl. the development of a strategy as part of the Champion Programme	Core						Several proposals developed and presented Strategy for approaching Private sector is being outlined		
		Core								
		High								
2	Promote CMS Issues in UN System Participating in meetings of / with e.g.: · Biodiversity Liaison Group (BLG) · EMG and IMG Biodiversity Group · UNEP 2015 Strategic Group and Post-2015 process of Sustainable Development Goals · UNEP MEA Management Team meetings · Participating in NBSAPs Forum (UNEP-, UNDP-, CBD-led) to provide information on behalf of the CMS Family · Global Programme on Oceans (GPO) · UNEP MEA Focal Points	High						Meeting attended (23 January)	Follow-up ongoing	
		Low								
		Medium							Meeting attended (19 June) Link to NBSAP forum included on CMS Family website	Follow-up ongoing
		Medium								
		High								
		Medium								
High										

IV. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND INTERAGENCY AFFAIRS

No.	Activities	Priority ranking	2015				Status	Accomplishment	Notes	
			Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
					Needed	Obtained				Source
3	Strengthen Existing Collaboration with MEAs · Coordinating and overseeing the implementation of the Joint Work Plans with CBD, Ramsar and CITES · Strengthening the collaboration with UNESCO-WHC, UNFCCC, UNCCD and IWC · Maintaining collaboration with other MEAs e.g. Bern Convention, Cartagena Convention, etc.	High						New JWP with CBD completed Bern Convention member of Task Force on Illegal Killing of Birds		
		Medium								
		Low								
4	Strengthen Existing Collaboration with IGOs and Civil Society · Strengthening the relationship with e.g. EU, SPREP, IUCN and Civil Society, where appropriate	Medium								
5	Engagement in New Strategic Cooperation · Continuing cooperation with IRENA, building on results of joint project. · Pursuing joint interests and activities with WWF in the context of the partnerships agreement · Exploring possible engagement of GEF, UNDP, World Bank and others in implementation of CMS.	High								
		High								
		Medium								
6	RESOURCE MOBILIZATION · Developing a CMS Resource Assessment and Mobilization Plan · Implementing the Migratory Species Champion Programme	Core	25,000		25,000					
		Core	2,000		2,000					
7	CMS AMBASSADORS · Continuing to liaise with the CMS Ambassadors to expand their programme to support CMS and identifying new Ambassadors, as appropriate.	Medium	10,000		10,000			Ambassadors provided statements in support of the World Migratory Bird Day	Programme is being revamped	

IV. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND INTERAGENCY AFFAIRS

No.	Activities	Priority ranking	2015				Status	Accomplishment	Notes	
			Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contribution					
					Needed	Obtained				Source
8	Strengthen Regional Presence Implementation of CMS · African Regional Coordinator for raising awareness, building partnerships, mobilizing resources and the recruitment of new Parties to enhance visibility and general implementation of the Convention in the Africa region. · Western Hemisphere Regional Coordinator for raising awareness, building partnerships, mobilizing resources and the recruitment of new Parties to enhance visibility and general implementation of the Convention in the LAC region. · Pacific Regional Coordinator for raising awareness, building partnerships, mobilizing resources and the recruitment of new Parties to enhance visibility and general implementation of the Convention in the Pacific region.	High	100,000		100,000			Requests of funds sent to all Parties	No resources obtained	
		High	100,000		100,000			same as above	same as above	
		High	100,000		100,000			same as above	same as above	
Total			337,000	0	337,000	0				

V. INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH

No.	Activities	Priority ranking	2015					Status	Accomplishments	Notes
			Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
					Needed	Obtained	Source			
1	· Organizing workshops to develop and discuss the Strategy	Core	50,000		50,000			Independent Consultant hired and work is currently ongoing	To be undertaken if and when funding is available	
	· Developing a common Communication Strategy for AEWA and CMS; a first step toward a CMS Family-wide strategy	Core	25,000		25,000	Germany			Shared funding with AEWA Secretariat.	
	· Developing a common branding for the CMS Family	Medium							To be undertaken if and when funding is available.	
2	Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) · Initiating the development of a common CEPA Programme for AEWA and CM · Organizing CEPA Workshops to ensure a participatory process · Developing the CEPA Programme · Developing a CEPA Toolkit	Medium							Scheduled for 2017	
		Medium							Scheduled for 2017	
		Medium							Scheduled for 2017	
		Medium							Scheduled for 2017	
		Medium							Scheduled for 2017	
3	Electronic Information Tools · Maintaining and/ or developing other websites e.g. World Migratory Bird Day	Core	5,000		5,000	Germany		World Migratory Bird Day Website Developed for the 2015 annual campaign	New Website built using the Drupal (open source) Content Management System	
4	Campaigns · Organizing the campaigns e.g. World Migratory Bird Day, World Wildlife Day, etc.	High	35,000		35,000	Germany		World Migratory Bird Day 2015 Campaign successfully implemented	Shared Activity between CMS and AEWA Secretariats	

V. INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH

No.	Activities	Priority ranking	2015					Status	Accomplishments	Notes		
			Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions							
					Needed	Obtained	Source					
5	Information Management · Further developing and maintaining the Online Reporting System incl. Analytical Tool · Analysing and synthesizing of National Reports · Managing in- and outgoing mail and keeping the contact database up to date	High	50,000		50,000		EC / ACP Project		Scheduled for 2017			
		Core										
		Core										
6	Electronic Information Tools · Maintaining and further developing the CMS Family Website · Programme Officer to maintain and further develop electronic information tools · Maintaining and further developing online Workspaces e.g. for the Scientific Council	Core	30,000	6,500	23,500				CMS Website being actively maintained by multiple Secretariat staff. CMS Family Website WG (re-launched) to identify areas of improvement / further development Recruitment process for 50% P2 Post still ongoing. Consultant hired in April 2015 to fill the gap.	Funding available to secure basic technical maintenance of CMS Family Website, but resources needed to be able to make further improvements (Development Costs) Funding urgently needed to be able to upgrade the part-time P-2 to a full time position. This is a core position within the new Joint CMS+ AEWA Communications, Information Management and Outreach Unit.		
		Core						96,102			45,102	51,000
		Core						10,000				10,000

V. INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH

No.	Activities	Priority ranking	2015					Status	Accomplishments	Notes
			Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
					Needed	Obtained	Source			
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Drafting of Press Releases, Op-Eds, Articles, etc. including responding to Media requests · Furthering the use of Social Media to increase the visibility of the CMS Family · Improving the use of Multi Media 	Core						In-house production of video statements (ES)	Special Media Capacity Needs Strengthening	
		High	50,000		50,000					
		Medium	10,000		10,000					
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Organzing and supervising the printing of publications 	Core	20,000		20,000			In-house capactiy for design / desktop publishing strengthened (AEWA Staff Member of Joint Communications Team)	Funding for printing and design of high-end products still needed	
Total			381,102	51,602	264,500	65,000				

VI. CAPACITY BUILDING

No.	Activities	Priority ranking	2015				Status	Accomplishments	note	
			Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
					Needed	Obtained				Source
1	<p>Capacity Building</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stimulating the use of E-community to increase communication between National Focal Points. Evaluating the usefulness of the existing capacity-building tools e.g. National Focal Point Manual, E-community, etc. 	Core High								
2	<p>Regional Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizing and servicing preparatory meeting for COP12 in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Pacific. 	High	200,000		100,000	100,000	EC	Half of funding needed already obtained	Funding for two regional preparatory workshops in Latin America and Africa for COP12 in 2017. Total estimate covers the triennium	
3	<p>Recruitment of Parties</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing a Strategy to recruit new Parties. Liaising with non-Party Range States to provide them with the necessary information to make an informed decision to join CMS and/or one or more of its instruments. Assisting countries to accede to CMS 	Core Core Core	90,000		-90,000	180,000	EC	More than estimated funding obtained. Two workshops held	Funding for 4 regional workshops in the Caribbean, Latin America, South-East Asia and Pacific (2015-2016). Total estimate covers the triennium	
4	<p>Capacity-Building</p> <p>Implementing the Capacity-Building Strategy 2015-2017 by identifying specific needs, Training of Trainers, developing materials and organizing capacity-building workshops in particular in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Pacific, etc.</p>	Core	200,000		200,000					
	Total		490,000		210,000	280,000				

VII. SERVICING OF GOVERNING BODIES AND OTHER CMS MEETINGS

No.	Activities	Priority ranking	2015					Status	Accomplishments	Notes
			Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
					Needed	Obtained	Source			
1	The 12th Meeting of the Conference of Parties (including hiring Conference Officer, support for funded delegates, contracting ENB and organization of High Level Segment).	Core								
2	The Standing Committee including maintaining regular contact	Core	21,649	21,649						
3	The Scientific Council including maintaining regular contact	Core	60,408	50,408	10,000				Additional funding is not needed	
4	Servicing and organizing (logistically) of any other CMS meeting e.g. Meeting of Signatories to MoUs, Meeting of Parties to the Gorilla Agreement, Workshops, etc.	Core								
5	CMS Family Retreat	Core						Improved cooperation with the CMS Family, particularly with respect to aquatic and avian species.		
	Total		82,057	72,057	10,000					