



CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES OF WILD ANIMALS (CMS)



Summary report of the ninth meeting of the Standing Committee

Bonn, Germany, 24-25 February 1993

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

First session: 24 February, 9.45 - 13.20

Opening remarks by the Chairman and Secretariat

1. The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed the participants, who introduced themselves. He thanked the Secretariat for preparing the meeting so efficiently, and the Government of Germany for its continuing support to CMS as Depositary. He also expressed pleasure that, for the first time, a Standing Committee meeting would be attended by all of its regional members. The Co-ordinator noted, as well, that this was the first meeting of the Committee held in the new premises provided by the German Government, and expressed hope that additional space would be made available should it be needed in the future.

Adoption of the agenda

2. The agenda was adopted without any amendments. It was agreed that agenda item 9, "Strategy paper on the future development of the Convention" would be covered in two parts, beginning with Part I on the first day, and that agenda item 12, "Any other business", would also be covered on the first day if time allowed.

Matters arising from the last meeting of the Committee

3. The Chairman noted that the Secretariat had circulated the Rules of Procedure (document CMS/StC.9/Inf.1), as requested. He explained that it was necessary to make some minor adjustments to them to take account of Resolution 3.8 (Geneva, 1991), which had brought about changes in the composition of the Committee. The Secretariat was requested to make the necessary modifications and to circulate the Rules prior to the Committee's next meeting.

4. The representative of Asia (India) drew attention to the fact that there apparently had been no further progress on a proposed Agreement for the conservation of the Siberian crane, of which the western flock is critically endangered. He stressed the importance of developing an Agreement involving Afghanistan, China, India, Iran, Mongolia, Pakistan, Russian Federation and four of the now independent States of the former USSR. The Secretariat explained that the International Crane Foundation (ICF) had developed a draft text of a Bonn Convention

Agreement, but that further work was needed before it could be circulated, perhaps in the form of a memorandum of understanding among the Range States concerned. It was agreed that the Secretariat should make the necessary revisions to the Agreement text and that ICF should be requested to develop a more specific Action Plan. The Secretariat was asked to liaise with India which, it was pointed out, would be a logical choice to take the lead on this initiative. If appropriate, further discussions might take place at the time of a meeting to consider the draft Asian/Australasian Waterfowl Agreement, planned to be held in conjunction with the Ramsar conference in Kushiro, Japan, in June 1993.

Report on intersessional activities

a) Status of the Convention

5. The Co-ordinator reported that there had been no new Parties to the Convention since the accession of Argentina in January 1992, but that the Secretariat had made considerable efforts to try to attract new Parties in the interim. Although the response from the United States had been less than enthusiastic, it was acknowledged that now was the time to try to influence the position of the new administration. The Chairman encouraged all members to do everything possible to raise the question with representatives of the United States government.

6. Members reported on various initiatives they had taken over the past year to influence countries in their region. In particular, the representative of Oceania (Australia) hoped that its efforts vis-à-vis New Zealand would be fruitful in two or three years, even though there seemed to be some resistance to joining, at present. The observer from the Netherlands had had discussions with officials of both Russia and the Ukraine; he reported that the primary obstacles to accession in both cases were economic considerations rather than opposition on substantive grounds. The representative of America and the Caribbean (Panama) had contacted several neighbouring countries but had not had any response. She expressed the view that CMS Agreements for various groups of species, such as marine turtles, could be used as vehicles for attracting new Parties. The observer from Denmark offered to take the lead in raising the question of CMS membership with Greenland. The observer from the European Economic Community (EEC) pointed out that meetings of CITES offered a good opportunity for the Secretariat and CMS Parties to promote membership in the Bonn Convention.

7. The Depositary reported that the procedures for correcting the French and Spanish versions of the text of the Convention were under way, but that there was some confusion over what exactly had to be done. The Depositary suggested that, pending completion of these procedures, it would suffice to work with the unofficial texts that had been prepared by the Secretariat. However, it was pointed out that potential Parties usually request certified copies, and that difficulties might arise at the time of ratification or accession if there were any errors in the unofficial texts.

8. The Depositary agreed that work on the Convention texts should be completed in time for the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties. To that end, it agreed to make it clear to the respective governments of France and Spain that they are requested only to verify that the corrections adopted by the Conference of the Parties in 1991 have been accurately incorporated in the revised texts prepared by the Secretariat, and not to introduce any new amendments.

9. Concern was expressed that confusion might arise if the United Nations were to publish the texts the Depositary has provided it, because they do not include all of the corrections and amendments adopted up to and including those made in 1991. The Depositary agreed to

request the United Nations to suspend publication until it receives from the Depositary up-to-date texts (including the Appendices) in English, French and Spanish, and to indicate to the United Nations when it expected to be able to provide the final texts. The Depositary also agreed to implement fully the procedures required under the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties with respect to formal approval of the texts.

10. Finally, the Depositary confirmed that the Convention texts in Arabic, Chinese and Russian were being revised, and were awaiting verification by the language service of the German Foreign Office.

b) Trust Fund contributions

11. The Secretariat reported on contributions that had been received since the preparation of document CMS/StC.9/3. In particular, it noted that France had paid an contribution outstanding from 1990 and 1991 amounting to over US\$200,000. This left four Parties with substantial arrears: Italy, Germany, Israel and Argentina (in order of magnitude). The Secretariat noted that Italy usually pays its contribution at this time of year, so further action might not be warranted. The Depositary explained that this year, it would pay the US\$30,000 outstanding from 1992 along with its full contribution for 1993. As Israel had not responded to the Secretariat's letter of 12 March 1992 reminding it of the Convention's financial obligations, the Committee requested the Chairman to write another follow-up letter to ask for a reply. The Secretariat was asked to write to Argentina with a view to reminding it of its outstanding contribution.

12. A number of members and observers stressed the importance of receiving invoices from UNEP as early as possible, in order to expedite payments by their respective finance departments. The Secretariat agreed to pass on this request to UNEP headquarters.

13. The question of an amnesty for outstanding contributions was raised in the context of amounts due from Hungary, dating from 1987 and 1988. One option suggested was an amnesty for all amounts owing prior to 1992, on the condition that contributions for 1992 and subsequent years be paid in full. It was agreed that this issue should be dealt with in the strategy paper on the future development of the Convention.

c) Scientific Council

14. The Chairman of the Scientific Council, attending the meeting as an observer, gave a brief overview of the activities of the Council since its last meeting. He emphasized two of its tasks: a review of the CMS Appendices in order to ensure that they truly reflect those migratory species in need of conservation measures; and the development of Agreements for key groups of species identified by the Conference of the Parties. The Chairman noted that proposals for amending the Appendices must be submitted by Parties at least 150 days before the meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

15. It was pointed out that several Parties still had not appointed members to the Council. The representative of America and the Caribbean indicated that a decision still had not been taken in Panama. The representative of Asia explained that the Indian appointment is currently under consideration and he agreed to send a reminder to the responsible authorities in that country; the observer from Denmark reported that it hoped to nominate a scientist before the Council's next meeting, scheduled for May 1993.

16. In response to a query from the alternative representative of Africa (Burkina Faso) as regards the Council's links to other more established Conventions such as Ramsar, the Chairman of the Council pointed out that its members often had links with other organizations in their personal capacity.

17. The observer from the EEC remarked that the Scientific Council had apparently not spent much time on the preparation of the review reports requested by the Parties at their last meeting, and he emphasized the importance of completing this work before the next conference. The Chairman of the Council expressed optimism in having this task completed in time. The representative of Oceania reported on work being carried out in Australia on marine turtles, including research on migration routes, regional co-operation, public awareness and education initiatives. Australia intended to report on these activities at the next meeting of the Council.

d) Other activities

18. The Secretariat summarized a number of activities it had been involved in since the preparation of the meeting documents, including the recruitment of a new full-time secretary to fill a vacancy created by the departure of the half-time secretary, at the end of February. It was arranging the production of a colour brochure on the Convention, with financial support from the Government of the United Kingdom. Work on the brochure – to be produced in English, French and Spanish – is expected to be completed by early April.

19. The Chairman described activities he had been involved in over the past year, including representing CMS at several meetings of interest to the Convention. In particular, he had hosted a well-attended reception on behalf of CMS at the final session of negotiations for the Biodiversity Convention, held at UNEP headquarters in Nairobi in May 1992.

20. The Depositary reported that the German Government had offered to second a scientist to the Secretariat for a period of two years, and that it hoped the arrangements would be finalized in the coming weeks.

Review of progress on Article IV Agreements

21. The Chairman reported that the European bats AGREEMENT was close to entering into force, with the recent signature of Norway (without reservation). The interim secretariat is producing an informative poster in English, French and German, and will be participating in a bats symposium to be held in Portugal in August 1993.

22. The agreement on small cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas requires six instruments of ratification (or accession, acceptance or approval) to enter into force. The Chairman indicated that ratification by the United Kingdom was expected soon, which would bring the number to three, and that Denmark and Sweden have each made voluntary contributions towards the operation of the interim secretariat. The observer from Denmark indicated that it hopes to ratify the bats and small cetaceans Agreements this year, but that there is some question as to whether its parliament will have time to deal with the matter in this year's timetable. The representative of the Depositary reported that the ratification act for both Agreements is before the German parliament, and that the procedures are expected to be completed within two months. This being the case, only one additional instrument would be needed to bring the small cetaceans agreement into force.

23. The Secretariat reported that it had received comments from many Range States and interested observers on a draft text of an Agreement for small cetaceans of the Mediterranean and Black Seas, which had been discussed at a meeting in Athens in October 1992. A revised

text would be circulated to Range States as soon as time permitted. The Secretariat emphasized the desirability of a CMS Party sponsoring the Agreement, with a view to facilitating the organization of a negotiation session for Range States.

24. The Secretariat also reported on progress made on a draft Agreement for the conservation of Asian/Australasian waterfowl. Although it had been hoped to circulate a revised draft of the Agreement, incorporating some modifications suggested by Australia, the Secretariat had just learned that Australia would not be in a position to provide the inputs which had been anticipated. It is still hoped that a further negotiation session can be held in connection with the Ramsar conference in June 1993.

25. The Co-ordinator reported on recent developments concerning the Western Palearctic Waterfowl Agreement, which had been renamed the African/Eurasian Waterfowl Agreement (AEWA) in order to better reflect the species coverage and Agreement area. It was hoped that the Agreement would be ready for signature by the time of the next meeting of the Parties, however, many uncertainties remain. The Co-ordinator explained that recent discussions had led to an understanding that, if the EEC were to withdraw its sponsorship of the Agreement, the Secretariat of the Convention would take on this responsibility, and the Government of the Netherlands would be prepared to act on the Secretariat's behalf in the further development of the Agreement.

26. The observer from the EEC confirmed that it intended to request the Secretariat to take the lead on this Agreement, and that it expected to be able to provide financial support to enable the Secretariat to cope with the additional workload, once a full proposal is presented including an estimate of the development costs and those associated with the convening of a negotiation session. (*Note from the Secretariat: since the meeting, the relevant EC Commissioner, Mr. Yannis Paleokrassas, has confirmed these proposals in writing.*)

27. The observer from the Netherlands expressed its willingness to continue work on the Agreement on behalf of the Secretariat, to offer financial support and personnel in order to have a text ready for the next conference, and to support a negotiation session in the autumn of 1993. He also reiterated the Netherlands' prior commitment to holding the first meeting of the Parties, financing the secretariat, and acting as depositary. A letter defining the responsibilities of the Government of the Netherlands vis-à-vis the Agreement would be drafted by the end of the first week in March for the Secretariat's consideration.

28. Responding to an earlier suggestion of the observer from the EEC that the white stork Agreement be integrated in the waterfowl Agreement, the Committee recommended that this question be put on the agenda of the next negotiation session of the AEWA.

29. The Chairman closed the first session at 13.20.

Second session: 24 February, 14.25 - 17.30

Review of the Convention budget and resources

30. Referring to document CMS/StC.9/5, the Secretariat explained that funds provided in budget line 2101 could be used at the discretion of the Standing Committee to fund proposals arising from a study on ways to enhance the participation of developing countries in the Convention. The Committee could also choose to transfer some or all of the funds to another budget line (3204) which would allow them to be used to facilitate the participation of delegates

from developing countries at meetings. The Secretariat pointed out that as the funds had not been used in 1992, a total of US\$134,000 was now available for this purpose (and another US\$78,000 would become available in 1994). The Committee agreed that the funds should be used to support the attendance of delegates from developing countries not only at the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, but also at the next meeting of the Scientific Council and other meetings, as appropriate.

31. In response to a query from the representative of Oceania, the Secretariat explained that the US\$6,500 budgeted for computers in line 4200 would, in fact, not be sufficient to cover all of the Secretariat's needs in this regard for 1993. Additional funds would be needed for the purchase of the computer equipment that the office required. The Secretariat agreed to provide the Committee with an estimate of its actual needs in 1993 to enable the Committee to reach a decision on the amount of additional funds to be transferred to budget line 4200 (see paragraph 50, below).

32. The Committee agreed that budget line 5300, "Sundry", could be used by the Secretariat to purchase, for its library, reference books that were not readily available elsewhere.

Standing Committee work programme and priorities

33. Referring to document CMS/StC.9/6, the Chairman highlighted a number of points in the Committee's work programme that had yet to be completed, among them a consultancy on guidelines for the development of future Agreements. The Co-ordinator reported that terms of reference for the consultancy were being prepared, and that it was hoped the work could be undertaken in the second half of 1993. The Committee recommended that the terms of reference be circulated for comment.

34. The Chairman drew attention to the fact that the Committee had been asked to prepare, for submission to the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, a draft resolution on the utilization by Parties of outline reports. It was agreed that the Secretariat would, after analysing the reports received from Parties, prepare advice for the Standing Committee in the first instance, including suggestions for any necessary modifications of the formats now in use.

35. The Chairman undertook to prepare a report on the Committee's activities for the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in accordance with Rule 31 of the Committee's rules of procedure. A draft of the report would be circulated to Committee members in advance for comment.

Arrangements for the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties

36. The Chairman introduced document CMS/StC.9/7 explaining that no formal offers from Parties had been received to host the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Secretariat had examined the possibility of holding the meeting in Nairobi in the spring of 1994, in order to avoid a potential conflict with a meeting of CITES later that year. As it had received a significantly higher cost estimate for holding the meeting than was estimated in September 1991, it had also requested another estimate if the meeting were to be held back-to-back with a special session of the UNEP Governing Council. It was noted, however, that there was uncertainty as to whether a special session would be convened and, if so, when it would take place.

37. The Secretariat presented an outline of a provisional timetable for the meeting, which had been elaborated in consultation with the Chairmen of the Standing Committee and Scientific Council (Annex 2). The proposed schedule assumed that the conference would be preceded by a three-day negotiation session on the draft African/Eurasian Waterfowl Agreement and a full-day meeting of the Scientific Council. It would also incorporate a one-day scientific symposium.

38. There was a general discussion of the merits of holding the conference in Nairobi. The representative of Oceania expressed reservation, on the grounds that holding the meeting there would be a difficult logistic exercise, and would not necessarily achieve the objective of attracting new Parties to the Convention. The observer from the Netherlands reiterated the willingness of his government to make a voluntary contribution towards the cost of holding the meeting in Nairobi, but expressed concern about the significant increase in the cost estimate.

39. A number of basic issues emerged in the discussion: whether the Committee still had a mandate to select Nairobi (UNEP headquarters) as the venue, in the light of the substantially higher cost estimate, and whether a Nairobi venue would provide good value for money and at the same time help advance the development of the Convention. The Secretariat noted from previous experience that meetings held at UNEP headquarters appear to be well-organized – a view shared by several representatives. Although the meeting might be more difficult to organize from a logistic standpoint, the problems were not insurmountable and the presence of UNEP staff on-site represented a considerable benefit over Geneva.

40. A number of options with regard to financing were discussed, such as raising additional voluntary contributions or combining the conference with another meeting such as a negotiating session on the draft African/Eurasian Waterfowl Agreement, in order to defray expenses. It was decided to defer further discussion until the following day (see paragraph 46, below).

Strategy paper on the future development of the Convention

41. The Secretariat introduced Part I of document CMS/StC.9/8, "Strategy Paper on the Future Development of the Convention", explaining that the document as a whole represented a first draft, with some sections still to be completed. Several participants complimented the Secretariat on the paper. The Committee had only a few suggestions for material to be included in or elaborated in Part I, which dealt primarily with a review of past performance:

- a foreward, explaining the origins of the document, would be helpful
- a note of caution should be added to the sections relating to the currently favourable financial status of the Convention
- there should be a factual presentation giving details of Secretariat staffing over the years, including the length of time needed for recruitment procedures (which the Committee deemed unsatisfactory)
- a more detailed description of annual UNEP administrative costs was requested

There being no further comments, discussion of Part II of the strategy paper was deferred until the next day.

Any other business

42. Referring to document CMS/StC.9/Inf.2, the Chairman explained that he had received an invitation from the Interim Secretariat of the North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO) to establish reciprocal observer status with CMS. The Committee decided that there was no need to formalize a special arrangement, and that the most appropriate course of action would be for the Secretariat to refer the NAMMCO Secretariat to the relevant article in the text of the Convention concerning attendance of observers at meetings of the Conference of the Parties (Article VII).

43. The Co-ordinator raised another issue concerning marine mammals which had recently come to light, namely a draft paper prepared by the Government of Brazil concerning the conservation and management of small cetaceans within the framework of the International Whaling Commission (IWC). The representative of Oceania explained the background to this issue, noting that there was a growing consensus within the IWC that small cetacean issues ought to be dealt with in a regional context. He expressed the view that the Bonn Convention should essentially be the umbrella for regional small cetacean Agreements, and that the role of CMS in small cetacean problems would be raised more vigorously in future IWC meetings. The Committee agreed that the Secretariat should write to Brazil (with a copy to the IWC), to encourage that country to join CMS and to explain the suitability of the Convention for dealing with matters relating to small cetacean conservation.

44. There being no further business to cover on the first day, the Chairman declared the session closed at 17.30.

Third session: 25 February, 9.40 - 13.00

45. The meeting opened on a positive note, with an announcement from the Co-ordinator that the Secretariat had received a letter from the Government of Morocco stating that procedures for ratification of the Bonn Convention were in the final phase.

Arrangements for the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties (continuation)

46. The Committee then returned to the discussion of the date and venue of the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties. During the course of the discussion, it was noted that the current budgetary situation was such that the additional meeting costs could be met from the Trust Fund, if necessary. Nevertheless, the representative of the Depositary informed the Committee that it has provided for DM 50,000 in its budget, to be decided upon at the end of 1993, which could be used to pay for travel costs of developing country delegates or additional meeting costs.

47. A consensus was reached that the conference should be held in Nairobi; while a preference was expressed that it be held in the spring of 1994, other dates which might be suitable should not be ruled out. The Committee agreed that the Secretariat should be given flexibility to investigate the various options that exist for linking the conference to other meetings, as appropriate, or holding it separately. Priority should be given to the organization of the main conference, the Scientific Council meeting and the scientific symposium, in that order. Having accepted the assurance of the Co-ordinator that the meeting would be organized in the most cost-effective manner possible, the Committee considered it undesirable to set an upper limit on expenditures that it would be prepared to accept. It was agreed that the Secretariat should decide on the final programme and costs of the meeting, in consultation with

the Chairman. This should be done as soon as possible, in order to avoid conflicts with other meetings in 1994. The Chairman of the Scientific Council expressed hope that it would be possible to confirm by the time of Council's next meeting, in May 1993, whether or not the scientific symposium would go ahead.

Date and venue of the next meeting of the Committee

48. The Chairman raised the idea of holding the next meeting of the Standing Committee in conjunction with the IUCN General Assembly – scheduled to be held in Buenos Aires in January 1994. This would take advantage of the fact that representatives of many Parties and others would be present. The representative of Oceania suggested that it would be an ideal forum to explain what CMS is; this might be achieved by organising a panel discussion involving the members of the Standing Committee. The Co-ordinator informed the meeting that the Director-General of IUCN had responded favourably to the idea of having the meeting in Argentina.

49. The Committee unanimously supported holding the meeting in Buenos Aires, and requested the Secretariat to finalise the necessary arrangements, including the precise dates.

Review of the Convention budget and resources (continuation)

50. Returning to an item of unfinished business from the previous day, the Committee decided that additional US\$4,500 should be budgeted in line 4200 for the purchase of computer equipment in 1993, bringing the total amount available to US\$11,000.

51. On another budgetary matter, the Secretariat sought and received the Committee's approval to staff the full-time secretarial post currently being advertised at either the G-3 or G-4 level, in order to give it more flexibility in choosing suitable candidates.

Strategy paper on the future development of the Convention (continuation)

52. The Secretariat introduced Part II of the strategy paper which contains, in six chapters, the substantive issues to be addressed in relation to the future development of the Convention: geographic coverage, taxonomic coverage, measures to improve implementation of the Convention, Agreements, institutional arrangements and resource requirements, and promotion of the Convention. At the end of each chapter, there is a summary of the main points contained therein.

53. The Chairman proposed a timetable of how further work on the paper might proceed. Written comments on the first draft should be sent to the Secretariat by 31 May 1993. These would be considered prior to the publication of a second draft, to be circulated to the Committee in the autumn of 1993, well before its next meeting. In the meantime, there are plans to hold consultations with nongovernmental organizations in connection with the meetings of the International Whaling Commission in May 1993 (focussing on NGOs concerned with marine mammal issues) and Ramsar in June 1993 (focussing on NGOs concerned with bird conservation). The idea is to provide information about the Convention and to obtain inputs from NGOs which might be incorporated in the strategy paper. The final document would be presented to the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as an annex to a resolution which would call upon the Parties to adopt the paper as a basis for the future development of the Convention. The priorities set by the strategy would also need to be reflected in the draft

budget for the next triennium, to be presented to the meeting. The strategy would then be reviewed at subsequent meetings of the Conference.

54. The Chairman then invited additional comments on Part I (considered the previous day), general observations on the paper as a whole, and specific comments on Part II. The Secretariat took note of specific observations, many of which are summarized in Annex 3. A summary of the discussion of a number of broad issues appears below.

55. The Co-ordinator raised the problem of the difficulties faced by certain countries, particularly those of eastern and central Europe, in meeting the financial obligations of the Convention. A number of ideas were discussed, but no immediate solutions to the problem were forthcoming. Some of the ideas suggested included: arranging assistance on a bilateral basis; linking the extension of loans to certain countries to a commitment to join CMS and pay the required annual contribution; granting developing countries and those with transitional economies a grace period of a number of years; waiving contributions altogether for countries unable to pay; and payment in kind, such as personnel. It was acknowledged, however, that the latter could be administratively cumbersome. The Committee concluded that it was important for solutions to be found which were acceptable to the Conference of the Parties; it recognized that this may be difficult given the strict obligations under the text of the Convention.

56. In the course of the general discussion, the representative of Oceania expressed Australia's interest in playing a leading role on marine conservation issues, including turtles. The observer from the EEC stated that the Bonn Convention should take account of action plans developed under other international conventions for species of mutual interest, such as the monk seal, small cetaceans and marine turtles. The representative of America and the Caribbean pointed out that that region actually consisted of three distinct subregions – South America, Central America, and the Caribbean. The affinities among the countries *within* each subregion helped foster cooperation on the execution of projects; it was more difficult to envisage close co-operation between countries in different subregions which might have little in common.

57. The session was closed at 13.00.

Fourth session: 25 February, 14.30 - 16.35

Participation of developing countries in Convention activities

58. The Committee agreed to the proposal of the Secretariat that it undertake a further study on the participation of developing countries in the Convention, as a follow-up to the questionnaire which was circulated in February 1992. Standing Committee members in the regions of America and the Caribbean, Africa, and Asia would be asked to assist with the consultations, the results of which will be integrated in the strategy paper before the next revision.

59. The observer from South Africa offered to contact diplomats of other African countries, such as Namibia and Zimbabwe, in order to get their views on the Convention.

Strategy paper on the future development of the Convention (continuation)

60. The Secretariat drew attention to the section in the strategy paper concerning a review of the CMS Appendices, noting that the Chairman of the Scientific Council would provide a detailed proposal in this regard, to be annexed to the strategy paper. The representative of the Depositary informed the meeting that IUCN (the World Conservation Union) was in the process of defining sustainable use and developing new "categories of threat", which might have implications for the inclusion of species in the CMS Appendices (since Resolution 2.2 refers explicitly to the IUCN definition of "endangered"). He believed the review of the CMS Appendices should concentrate first on the question of which species were migratory and non-migratory. The Committee agreed that it would be useful if CMS were represented at meetings where the new IUCN criteria were being discussed, or at least that the Scientific Council be informed of developments. The representative of Oceania offered to report the content of this discussion to the Chairmen of the CITES Animal and Plant Committees, which also had an interest in this matter.

61. There was a general discussion on the desirability of establishing a special fund within the framework of CMS for financing Convention-related projects. One option would be to use part of the existing surplus in the CMS Trust Fund to establish the fund, which might then be replenished through voluntary contributions or by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The observer from the Netherlands expressed support for the concept of a Migratory Species Conservation Fund, however the representatives of Oceania and the Depositary were not sympathetic to the idea of establishing a separate fund which might require new contributions. The less than satisfactory management of the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Fund was cited as an example not to follow. The alternate representative of Africa also expressed caution, inasmuch as some countries might perceive CMS merely as a funding mechanism, and be encouraged to join the Convention without having due regard to its fundamental obligations.

62. An alternate approach was then considered, whereby the limited resources available to CMS might be used as a catalyst to generate projects whose main funding would come from the GEF. Specifically, CMS funds could be used to finance the preparation of plans for projects benefitting migratory species in one or more countries, which would then form the basis of submissions to GEF for full project funding. The Committee expressed a preference for this option, noting that it would make better use of the funds likely to be available to CMS in a way that was consistent with the outcome of UNCED and the developing role of GEF.

63. The Committee acknowledged that the issue of funding, particularly the potential role of the Global Environment Facility, should be thoroughly addressed in the strategy paper. It was pointed out that the GEF dealt only with projects of a large scale, and not those of a smaller dimension which might be of direct relevance to CMS. The Committee recommended that the Secretariat discuss with GEF representatives who would be present at the Ramsar conference and that they also be invited to the next meeting of the Committee in Buenos Aires.

64. The Committee expressed support for the idea of creating an Agreement Unit within the Secretariat, with a view to consolidating in one place activities related to various Agreements. The observer from Denmark remarked that it was a problem for some countries to pay voluntary contributions in support of the Agreements; it would be easier administratively if their financing were linked to the overall budget of the Convention (as is suggested in the strategy paper). The Co-ordinator pointed out that the first meeting of the Parties to the agreement on Baltic/North Sea small cetaceans would likely be the first to have to decide on a permanent secretariat arrangement for an agreement (apart from the special case of the Wadden Sea seal agreement). He informed the meeting that he had asked the German Government whether it would also be willing to host the secretariats of European-based

Agreements, but a reply had not yet been received. The Chairman emphasized that it would always be left to the Parties to any Agreement to decide on the most appropriate secretariat arrangements, and that this would be the case even if the Parties to European-based Agreements opted for a centralised approach. The possible options could vary under different circumstances. The Chairman expressed the view that various agreements could be co-located without necessarily being sponsored by UNEP.

65. In closing the discussion on the strategy paper, the Chairman drew attention to additional work that needed to be completed. He noted that it would be necessary to prepare a number of resolutions to give effect to some of the proposals included in the strategy and he reminded participants to forward their comments and additional contributions to the Secretariat by **31 May 1993**.

66. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the Chairman closed the meeting at 16.35.

List of participants

Chairman:	United Kingdom (Europe)	Mr. Robert Hepworth
Vice-Chairman:	Australia (Oceania)	Mr. Peter Bridgewater
Members:	Burkina Faso (Africa: alternate)	M. Lassane Ouedraogo
	Germany (Depositary)	Mr. Gerhard Emonds Mr. Günter Blaurock (part-time) Mr. Eugeniusz Nowak Ms. Astrid Thyssen
	India (Asia)	Mr. Ved Mitra Mr. Rajiv K. Chander
	Panama (America and the Caribbean)	Sra. Kruskaya de Melgarejo
Observers:	Denmark	Ms. Tine Skafté Nielsen
	European Economic Community	Mr. Richard Geiser
	Netherlands	Mr. Gerard Boere
	South Africa	Ms. Antwa Lise Nolte
	Uruguay	Sra. María José Vignone
	Chairman, Scientific Council	Mr. Wim Wolff
Secretariat:	Co-ordinator Programme Officer	Mr. Arnulf Müller-Helmbrecht Mr. Douglas Hykle

Apologies were received from the following Parties: Finland, Israel, Luxembourg and Sri Lanka.

Provisional timetable for the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and a separate negotiation session on the draft African/Eurasian Waterfowl Agreement (tentative)

Weekday (indicative)	Day	Meeting
Wednesday - Friday	1-3	Negotiating Session: African/Eurasian Waterfowl Agreement
Saturday	4	Scientific Symposium
Sunday	5	Meetings of the Bureau, preparation for Scientific Council meeting; half-day excursion for other delegates
Monday	6	Scientific Council meeting
Tuesday - Friday or Saturday	7-10 or 11	Fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

Observations and suggestions concerning the strategy paper on the future development of the Convention

General

An executive summary should be presented at the beginning of the document.

An action plan should be drafted as a separate part of the strategy paper, containing *inter alia* a timetable and budget for implementation of the programme described in the strategy during the first triennium following its adoption.

Different versions of the strategy paper might be produced for different audiences: for example, an abbreviated version might be used as a vehicle for attracting new Parties.

The link between CMS and the Biodiversity Convention should be highlighted; the paper should provide a rationale for countries to join the Bonn Convention *in addition to* the Biodiversity Convention, for example, by emphasizing its usefulness as a delivery mechanism for commitments made under the latter.

The points that currently appear as summaries at the end of each chapter in Part II should be moved to the beginning of each chapter and renamed "Action points", "key points" or "highlights" and cross-referenced to the sections of the text to which they relate.

Additional graphics should be added, for example, a diagram showing the relationship between organs of the Convention and associated Agreements.

Part I

Greater emphasis should be placed on the fact that the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties was much better attended than the previous meeting and that one of the highlights was the conclusion of two Agreements in association with the meeting (para. 23, 24).

Figure 5 (Types of resolutions adopted by the Conference of the Parties) should be deleted as it might give an unfavourable impression of the work of the Conference. Similarly, in Table 4 (Resolutions adopted by the Conference of the Parties), the column showing "Type of resolution" should be deleted. An explanation should be given to the effect that the large number of administrative, financial, and technical/legal resolutions reflects a normal pattern in the early development of conventions (para. 61, 62).

The description concerning ongoing problems with the official texts of the Convention may be modified depending on progress made to resolve the outstanding matters.

The position of the Bonn Convention in relation to other nature conservation treaties should be elaborated more fully, by giving examples of how the Convention is particularly well-suited to provide a framework for addressing certain problems.

The potential benefits of the Convention as regards Appendix I species should be emphasized; the benefits for Appendix II species that flow from action taken with respect to Appendix I species should also be noted.

Part II

The "country profiles" referred to in paragraph 73 should be brief, and limited to key countries; they should also be used to help explain to potential Parties what they will need to do upon joining the Convention in order to fulfil their obligations.

An exchange of information on migratory species, including their status on a regional and global basis, should be made more regular in order to facilitate the elaboration of conservation strategies that take account of periodic developments.

The status of conservation measures in the independent States of the former USSR, which form breeding grounds for many migratory species, should be ascertained.

Section 5.2 (Convention-funded projects) should also make reference to projects funded by individual Parties.

The point should be made that projects initiated in individual countries, for example, with financing from a special fund, may serve as an incentive for other countries to join the Convention.

The role of the Scientific Council in preparing review reports on selected Appendix I species should be emphasized.

It should be pointed out that although some Agreements now have a regional orientation (for example, migratory birds and marine species) eventually their coverage may be global. When this is the case other financing arrangements might be considered, such as contributions to a general budget which would support global Agreements.

A strategy for migratory marine species inhabiting international waters but coming to shore after passing through exclusive economic zones and coastal waters should be elaborated, particularly for increasingly rare marine turtles.

Agreements for species of waders should be among those considered for elaboration.

There should be regional meetings to explain CMS, perhaps in association with meetings of other organizations.

The need to encourage Parties to host meetings of the Conference of the Parties should be mentioned.

Reference should be made to the overview of legal instruments already prepared by IUCN in 1986 which, if updated, could provide some of information required in paragraphs 73 and 121.

As one of the aims of the strategy is to attract new Parties, it might be counterproductive to emphasize the proposal in paragraphs 135 and 136 (to levy a surcharge on Parties to Agreements that were not also members of the parent Convention).

Table 6 (Factors hindering full implementation of the Convention's provisions) might be removed or, if it remains, it should relate more directly to the text which follows; the strategy should, in any case, attempt to address the issues it raises.