



# Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme



## Report of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the CMS Standing Committee *Bonn, 8-9 November 2007*

### **Agenda Item 1: Opening remarks and introductions**

1. Hilary Thompson (Chair, UK) opened the meeting and welcomed the delegates to the meeting. She invited Christiane Paulus (Germany) representing the depositary and host country to say a few words. Ms. Paulus explained that Langer Eugen had served as the office accommodation of members of parliament before the Bundestag moved to Berlin and that the building was now the centre of the UN Campus in Bonn, to which a large conference facility was in the process of being added.
2. Robert Hepworth (Executive Secretary) expressed his pleasure at the high level of participation by members and observers.

### **Agenda Item 2: Adoption of Rules of Procedures, Agenda and Schedule and Election of Chair and Vice-Chair**

3. The revised provisional schedule (Doc Stc32.2 rev 1) and agenda were tabled. The Chair invited comments on the draft Rules of Procedure. There being none, she declared the rules of procedure adopted. She then made a statement on behalf of the UK, to the effect that personnel and structural changes within the British ministry were making it increasingly difficult for the UK to dedicate the necessary time to the chairmanship of the Standing Committee. Realising that 2008 would be an important year for CMS, with COP9 due in December, it had been decided that it would be better for the UK to step down from the chair but remain on the committee as the representative of Western Europe. She thanked fellow members of the committee and of the secretariat for all the support that they had shown since the UK took the chair in 2002.
4. The Executive Secretary thanked the UK for their work as chair over a five-year period and respected their decision to stand down. He then called for nominations for the new chair. The UK nominated Australia and this was seconded by Germany. There were no other nominations, so Andrew McNee representing Australia assumed the chair. He called for nominations for the vice-chairmanship. Germany, seconded by the UK, proposed Ukraine, who were elected unopposed.
5. The Chair then asked for comments on the provisional agenda (Doc Stc32.1.rev1) which was adopted without amendment.
6. Oceania made an opening statement pointing out that Australia was in the midst of an election campaign and therefore had a caretaker government which by constitutional convention was unable to make financial or policy commitments.
7. The Provisional Schedule (Doc Stc32.2.rev1) was also adopted as presented with the exception of item 9g (Avian Influenza) which would be brought forward as the speaker had to leave the meeting early.

### **Agenda Item 3: Adoption of 31<sup>st</sup> Meeting Report**

8. There were no comments on the Report of the 31<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee which was therefore adopted.

### **Agenda Item 4: Secretariat Report**

9. As was the case at the 31<sup>st</sup> Meeting, the Secretariat's report comprised a series of presentations by staff members.

10. First to take the floor was the Executive Secretary whose overview noted that the number of parties had broken through the 100-barrier, having risen from 98 at the time of the last Standing Committee meeting to 104 at the present time with two further accessions in the pipeline. The number and geographic and taxonomic breadth of the agreements concluded under CMS had also increased. Progress during October 2007 had been particularly remarkable with the conclusion of a binding mini-treaty for gorillas, and the agreement of text for non-binding MOUs and Action Plans for West African Small Cetaceans and Manatees, and Afro-Eurasian birds of prey. During the same month, the Atlantic Monk Seal MOU and the Dugong MoU had been signed and were already in force. Earlier in August an MOU had been concluded in South America for grassland birds, the second instrument concluded for species exclusive to that region. Voluntary contributions and donations running at record levels of €1.5 million had made all this progress possible. The long awaited "CMS Family Guide" had now been published and would be launched at lunchtime. This was one of many new publications produced over the past twelve months. CMS continued to work with partners, and a new agreement had been entered with the Wildlife Conservation Society, while work continued with WDCS and several others.

11. The Scientific Council had held its largest ever meeting in March 2007 with over eighty participants including observers from the USA, this illustrating the efforts made by the Secretariat to engage the US Administration. A further example was a symposium held at the Smithsonian Institution, building on US participation in IOSEA.

12. The Year of the Dolphin had had a remarkable impact worldwide and was being extended into 2008. YoD was being seen as a model partnership bringing together CMS, two of its Agreements and partners from the voluntary and private sector (WDCS and TUI). The WATCH talks had been integrated into YOD events and the Atlantic MOU for Small Cetaceans and Manatees would be a lasting legacy of the campaign taking the number of cetacean agreements under CMS to four. The merger of the CMS Secretariat with that of ASCOBANS had been a challenge but the longer-term benefits would outweigh the initial teething problems.

13. Although Italy was unable to attend the Standing Committee, agreement had been reached for Italy to host the next COP and the Italian Government had promised considerable financial assistance. Both the COP and the Scientific Council would be held at the Food and Agriculture Organisation's premises in Rome in late 2008.

14. Finally, the Executive Secretary pointed out that three professional level staff had left in the past three months, and he thanked the remaining staff who had valiantly carried on and enabled the heavy schedule of meetings and other elements of the work programme agreed by Parties to be completed successfully.

15. Marco Barbieri (Scientific and Technical Officer) reported on progress made relating to recent resolutions. Resolution 8.22 on human impacts on cetaceans appeared separately on the agenda. Resolution 8.13 on climate change and migratory species was linked to a project funded

by the UK which sought to identify indicator species for climate change. The British Trust for Ornithology was leading the fieldwork which was expected to be completed in 2008 and CMS was on the steering committee. Responses to the questionnaire circulated on environmental impact assessments (resolution 7.2) were being assessed. The response rate had not been particularly high. The Secretariat was working with the German NGO, NABU, on promoting best practice guidelines for power line construction to reduce the incidence of birds being electrocuted.

16. Turning to the inter-sessional meeting of the Scientific Council, Macro Barbieri thanked the German and Swedish governments for their support. A full account of the meeting would be given under the appropriate agenda item. The Council had adopted its own implementation plan which mirrored the Convention's Strategic Plan. Key activities included the review of the status of all Appendix I species (the format of the report had been agreed and the report itself would be presented at COP9); the appointed councillors and taxonomic group chairs had taken the lead. Among the taxonomic reviews undertaken to help identify further species for listing included a report on migratory chondrichthyan fish carried out by Sarah Fowler of IUCN and co-funded by the UK and CMS. The report would be published a part of the Technical Series and the work would be carried forward through the Seychelles sharks meeting in December. Terms of reference had been agreed for reviews of bycatch and barriers to migration, with funding indicated by the UK and tentatively by Australia on bycatch and from Monaco on barriers. Italy had provided funding for a report on the impact of invasive alien species on migratory species.

17. Species related work being undertaken included preparation of Single Species Action Plans (SSAPs) for several bird species listed in CMS Appendices, namely the black-faced spoonbill, Chinese crested tern and spoon-billed sandpiper (in cooperation with BirdLife International's Asia Division), the lesser flamingo (in cooperation with the Wetlands International/IUCN-SSC Flamingo Specialist Group), and the Madagascan pond-heron and the white-winged flufftail with funding from Italy (in cooperation with Birdlife International). The last three SSAPs were being prepared jointly with AEWa.

18. Limited funds had prevented more progress on the Small Grants Programme, so few new projects had been started. Progress had however been achieved with existing projects such as the Indonesian National Strategy and Action Plan for the dugong (in conjunction with the UNEP Regional Seas Programme office); a major initiative on central Asian arid land mammals with technical support from the IRSNB; and work on Atlantic leatherback turtles. A project on CMS Appendix I bird species in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was about to start thanks to funding from the Netherlands.

19. CMS had contributed to a number of scientific conferences. The Secretariat was represented in the Scientific Committee of the "Starlight 2007 Conference", an initiative led by UNESCO concerning disturbance from artificial light pollution, and gave a keynote speech at the conference on ecological consequences of artificial lighting. The Secretariat was also in the steering group of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Mediterranean Turtle Conference (Tunisia, 2008) alongside the Bern and Barcelona Conventions and IUCN. The West African Talks on Cetaceans and their Habitats (WATCH) had also been a major initiative, leading to the negotiation of a draft MOU concerning the conservation of the West African Manatee and Small Cetaceans of Western Africa and Macaronesia, and associated action plans. This had been achieved with funding from Monaco, the Netherlands, Italy and the Canaries Regional government.

20. John Hilborn (Acting Agreements Officer) spoke primarily about the forthcoming sharks meeting and the current status of the two bustard initiatives.

21. Recommendation 8.16 advocated the development of an instrument for migratory sharks. The meeting originally planned for January 2007 had been postponed to December 2007. Support had been secured from Australia, the UK and the host country, the Seychelles. All options would be examined and no draft instrument would be tabled at the meeting, although this avenue would be advocated by CMS. Considerable interest was being shown, with over 80 registrations received from nearly forty countries. Further efforts would be made to secure the participation of FAO, the European Commission and Japan. Rolph Payet of the Seychelles would chair the meeting. Trilingual documentation (English, French and Spanish) was being prepared, and CMS was hoping to receive a mandate to develop an international instrument of some kind.

22. The second meeting of the signatories of the great bustard MOU would take place in Ukraine in 2008. Saudi Arabia was willing to host another meeting on the draft MOU on the houbara bustard and the Secretariat stood ready to assist.

23. Margi Prideaux (Temporary CMS Marine Policy Officer) related progress on the new Pacific Islands Cetaceans MOU. It had been signed in New Caledonia in September 2006 and the first meeting of signatories had taken place in March 2007 in Apia, Samoa with the help of SPREP and the governments of Germany, Australia and New Zealand. CMS had held an outreach workshop during the same meeting. The MOU and its Action Plan which was shared with SPREP as a region wide Whale and Dolphin Action Plan, covered a vast area from the Tropic of Cancer to New Zealand and between Papua New Guinea and the Pitcairn Islands and included a number of non-CMS countries and territories who were being introduced to the effective work of the Convention. Further CMS initiatives in the area included species work on dugongs and Pacific marine turtles. Capacity building workshops supported by MOU Collaborating Organisation, WDCS, and the Australian Government were taking place in Fiji and Papua New Guinea.

24. Liam Addis (External Relations Assistant) reported on progress achieved at the Paris meeting to negotiate a binding agreement on gorillas, which formed part of the Paris "Primate Week". Nine of the ten range states had attended (all but Rwanda) and concluded the negotiations for an agreement which covered all four subspecies of the genus *gorilla*. The final act had been signed by six of the nine countries present, the remaining three having failed to bring adequate credentials. Two countries (Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Republic of the Congo) had signed the Agreement which required three signatures/ratifications to come into force. The Agreement provided for cooperation with a number of other organisations active in conservation in the gorilla's range (including CBD, GRASP, COMIFAC, CITES, UNESCO and the Congo Basin Partnership, which was now led by Germany and which CMS would join shortly). CMS was already heavily involved in GRASP. The resolution passed at the end of the meeting called upon the CMS Standing Committee to mandate the CMS Secretariat to provide interim secretarial support to the Agreement along with GRASP, to help coordinate the finalisation of action plans with the range states in the run-up to the first MOP which was planned to take place alongside the CMS COP in 2008, by which time the Executive Secretary hoped the Agreement would be operational, and to start preparation for the "Year of the Gorilla 2009".

25. Francisco Rilla (Information and Capacity Building Officer) said that the Secretariat had dedicated much time to recruiting new parties and organising outreach workshops (Samoa, Washington and Panama). Membership had risen to 104 with two more accessions (Cuba and the Islamic Republic of Iran) imminent. The new countries to be targeted for recruitment would include Afghanistan, Armenia, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Guatemala, Haiti, Mozambique, Nicaragua and Zimbabwe. He thanked Dr Devillers for the technical support provided in persuading the Islamic Republic of Iran to accede. In his presentation, Mr Rilla showed graphics illustrating the Convention's growth, its representation in different regions and the number of

non-Parties participating in Agreements and MOUs (including Brazil, the Russian Federation and China). These three countries were not only important for their biodiversity but were regional leaders whose accession might encourage others to follow. Importantly, CMS had more than 100 Parties and over half of the world's countries had now joined.

26. Germany's efforts as depositary to encourage more countries to join through bilateral meetings were acknowledged. The Secretariat also undertook missions to potential parties, and conservation projects, like the Saiga MOU and the possible future snow leopard initiative would further develop links with non-Parties. A meeting was planned with the Brazilian minister, when it was hoped to build on Brazil's involvement in the South American grassland birds MOU. A second MOU had been signed in South America concerning the ruddy-headed goose, whose continental population was around 1,000. The Panama Capacity Building workshop had also given impetus to an instrument for the highland Andean flamingos.

27. Further efforts would be made to improve the CMS website and ensure that all documents were posted. Finally, a leaflet had been produced in a number of languages on Avian Influenza. This project had been made possible through funding from the Netherlands.

### **Agenda Item 9: Follow-up on Outstanding StC31 and COP8 Decisions**

#### **Agenda Item 9g: Migratory Species and Avian Influenza (Resolution 8.27)**

28. Rebecca Lee (Avian Influenza Support Officer) spoke about developments on the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds, which was now co-ordinated jointly by CMS and FAO. She first gave a brief history of the highly pathogenic strain, H5N1, which emerged in south-east Asia, reached Europe in 2005 and Africa shortly afterwards. This was the first highly pathogenic strain to affect wild birds in multiple outbreaks; highly pathogenic strains were normally restricted to domestic poultry. Mortality rates had been high in some wild bird populations, and disease outbreaks could potentially have disastrous consequences for threatened species with highly concentrated populations. Fear of the disease being spread by wild birds led to a number of negative consequences, including misguided attempts to control the disease by destroying or disturbing wild birds and their habitats. Countering misinformation, communicated by media and some organisations about the spread of the disease, was a major role of the Task Force.

29. Since 2005, the Task Force had conducted a number of teleconferences and held workshops. A new member, the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, had been recruited. The Task Force's main focus was on communication, using primarily the AIWEB website, which was used to disseminate the latest information, press coverage and relevant documents. An avian influenza brochure had already been produced in six languages and two more translations were in preparation. The Task Force would be represented at the forthcoming COPs and MOPs (CMS, Ramsar, CBD and AEWA) and aimed to ensure that a clear and consistent scientific message on avian influenza and wild birds was presented at each meeting. The Task Force agreed that further improvement was needed in the areas of bio-security, contingency planning and surveillance. Rebecca Lee explained that she was about to leave to attend a workshop in Korea organised by Ramsar to present the Task Force's recommendations for Ramsar's COP10. To develop better understanding of the disease and ensure appropriate responses, it was vital that multi-disciplinary approaches were taken including ornithological, virological, epidemiological and veterinary expertise. Further work was needed to better understand the role of "bridge species", those species often missed by surveillance programmes but that may be involved in local disease spread around poultry farms; improve species identification; and ensure the destruction of wild birds and their habitats is prevented. Finally she

indicated that a teleconference between the Taskforce members was due to take place in December.

30. Deputy Executive Secretary, Lahcen El Kabiri first dealt with administrative matters in the secretariat commenting on the departure of three professional staff members since July. The Fund Manager's post was to be upgraded to P4. The new accounts system was now operational and the new Trust Fund had been opened. Lahcen El Kabiri had deputised for the Executive Secretary at a number of meetings, including with Achim Steiner and other UN organisations in Bonn. He had met the former President of Mali, the Deputy Secretary General of the UN and the Inspector General of the UN on matters relating to Environmental Governance (see agenda item 7). He had participated in discussions over new UN mobility rules.

31. A number of delegations had been received, including the Minister of Yemen on the occasion of that country's accession which had brought the number of parties to 100. Lahcen El Kabiri had been to the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain to discuss dugongs and accession to CMS, to Amman for a meeting on sustainable hunting and to Hanover to meet the Sahelo-Saharan interest group to discuss antelopes. A mission had been sent to Niger following reports aired at the last Standing Committee meeting about VIP hunting parties killing rare antelopes. The European Commission had finalised its plans for funding a CMS-led project for Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes. Jointly with the Bern and Barcelona Conventions, a seminar was held in Antalya, Turkey, to discuss the Mediterranean monk seal and the MOU for the eastern Atlantic populations of this species had been concluded. The second meeting of the recently revitalised MOU on African Marine Turtles would take place in March 2008 hosted by Senegal. Excellent progress had been achieved at Loch Lomond on a possible MOU and action plan for African-Eurasian raptors, where 106 delegates representing 43 countries had met. A further meeting was scheduled for October 2008 in the UAE. A successful meeting had also taken place in Abu Dhabi, facilitated by assistance from Australia, the UK and the hosts, the UAE. The text of an MOU had been agreed and seven of the 42 range states had signed it enabling it to take effect.

32. Veronika Lenarz (Senior Public Information Assistant) spoke on activities under the Year of the Dolphin campaign 2007. A written report had also been submitted (Inf. doc 13). The campaign had brought together CMS, its cetacean Agreements, UNESCO, NGOs and the private sector (TUI) in an attempt to reach out to a wider audience to explain the threats faced by dolphins. Forty-five NGOs, individuals and academic institutions had been accepted as "YOD supporters".

33. Key events in the institutional development of CMS included the WATCH negotiations in Tenerife and the third MOP of ACCOBAMS which had passed a resolution on marine protected areas, conservation plans and threat mitigation. The first meeting of signatories of the Pacific Islands Cetacean MOU had also taken place this year.

34. Funding was a crucial issue, and fortunately a network of NGOs in Belgium and the Netherlands had established the Dolphin Fund. At a closing event for the Year of the Dolphin 2007 in Nieuwpoort, attended by the Belgian Prince Laurent, two cheques totalling €8700 representing the proceeds of the Belgian campaign were handed over to the Executive Secretary. A concert and a gala dinner attended the Dutch Princess Irene, Ambassador to the Dolphin Fund, had also helped raise funds for dolphin conservation.

35. A specially commissioned dolphin video and song were available from You-Tube. A Dolphin Manual in eight languages aimed at children had been produced in conjunction with WDCS. This had been distributed to schools by UNESCO and at holiday locations by TUI. A special poster, postcard and calendar had been produced. In France "Sailors for the Dolphins" had

encouraged boats to fly the YOD flag in races. In Portugal, World Animal Day, Nature Conservation Day and Children's Day all had a dolphin emphasis. Belgium and the Netherlands held a dolphin week. In India, a teacher spent the month of May touring schools raising awareness of dolphin conservation issues. In Italy and Croatia, Mediterranean Dolphin Day events were organised. TUI's partner company in Kenya undertook a great deal of public awareness raising work. The ACCOBAMS guidelines on contacts with cetaceans in whale-watching operations were translated into Greek, while some swimmers had decided to raise awareness of ship strikes in the English Channel.

36. TUI had supported the establishment of a website in English and German to which WDCS had been providing content. A diploma scheme had been elaborated for children and over seven hundred applicants had been successful. A film was to be launched in IMEX cinemas in the USA in April and its European premiere would be held in Berlin. The German TV station ZDF and the magazine, National Geographic Deutschland had promised to cover the event. The fees generated from downloading the dolphin song were being donated to a project to protect the Ganges river dolphin, which was listed on Appendix I of CMS.

37. A lecture had been held in Bonn entitled "the New Moral Frontier" in which Professor Tom White suggested that dolphins were so socially advanced as to merit the status of non-human persons. At the Monaco Grand Prix, large hoardings advertised the Year of the Dolphin message and at ACCOBAMS MOP3 in Dubrovnik, one of the side events was a display of dolphin posters by supporters on their activities related to the campaign. The campaign was to be extended into 2008 to enable current campaigns to continue and to start new ones. Ms Lenarz concluded her presentation by showing the YOD video.

38. The chairman commented that the presumed extinction of the Baiji river dolphin underlined the need for strong coordinated global action to protect dolphins and then opened the floor to questions.

39. Pierre Devillers (V-C, Scientific Council) congratulated the Secretariat on three major achievements: the accessions, of which the Islamic Republic of Iran was particularly important because of the emblematic species it hosted (fallow deer and Asiatic cheetah); the agreement on gorillas, which had been accomplished in record time and the MOU on the monk seal, a species which had been preoccupying the Convention and the European Commission for a long time.

40. Trevor Salmon (UK) also congratulated the Secretariat for its achievements especially in the light of staff departures and the merger with ASCOBANS. On Avian Influenza, the UK was interested to see that a coordinated approach was being adopted and hoped therefore that the resolutions submitted to the forthcoming round of COPs and MOPs would reflect this. The Executive Secretary confirmed that it was his intention for a more coordinated rather than a piecemeal effort to be made at the forthcoming round of meetings, bringing a universal message rather than variations on a theme as had happened in the past.

**Action:** Secretariat to ensure AI reports and Resolutions were coordinated between MEAs

41. John O'Sullivan (BLI and Scientific Council) regretted the slow progress on the houbara bustard and noted that another scheduled meeting had been cancelled. He asked the Committee to consider possible actions to bring the proposed MOU back on track.

**Action:** Standing Committee to consider how to enthuse the development of the MOU

42. Mohammad Saud Sulayem (Saudi Arabia) congratulated the Executive Secretary and his team for excellent achievements work during the last year or so. On the houbara initiative, he reassured the Committee that as lead country, Saudi Arabia wanted to secure progress on the MOU. Changes in the administration had caused some delays but he had now taken personal charge of the matter and would be happy to discuss the issues with BirdLife International bilaterally.

43. Mahamat Hassane Idriss (Chad) requested that more capacity building and promotional work be carried out in Africa, where a number of countries remained to be recruited to CMS (e.g. Sudan, Gabon). He also asked how many African countries were involved in the Avian Influenza network.

44. Isaac Roberto Angeles Lazo (Peru) welcomed the Secretariat's efforts to extend membership and participation in the Convention and its Agreements and MOUs. He expressed particular appreciation for the achievements in recent months.

45. The Chair concluded the discussion on this agenda item by adding his congratulations to the Secretariat and urging all parties to redouble their efforts to recruit more countries from their regions.

**Action:** Existing Parties to look to recruit new Parties

46. During the lunch break Delegates undertook an excursion on the River Rhine, during which the Secretariat and the UNEP representative jointly launched the new CMS Family Guide or "Encyclopaedia".

#### **Agenda Item 5: CMS Strategic Plan 2006-11**

47. The Deputy Executive Secretary introduced two documents, Inf. Doc. 8 and Inf. Doc. 9 rev 1 showing how the Convention's Strategic Plan had progressed in 2006 and 2007 respectively. The documents followed the format of the Strategic Plan adopted at the previous COP, and divided the Convention's work into a number of high level categories which were in turn divided into activities, accorded different degrees of priority. One innovation in the plan was the mention of all meetings with outside organisations.

48. Trevor Salmon (UK) pointed out the omission of the UK's financial contribution to the shark meeting in the Seychelles. He welcomed the new layout and hoped that the Secretariat found it useful and not too burdensome. He sought clarification on the status of those activities which had stalled and fallen behind schedule especially those marked as high priority. He thought that the Standing Committee could offer guidance.

49. The Executive Secretary apologised for the omission from the list of the UK donation. He confirmed that the new format was a helpful management tool. Not all priority actions had been progressed as result of lack of resources, which was a consequence of the last COP's decision to take projects out of the main budget. It had proved easier to secure funding for some higher profile projects than others, such as IT. However CMS would maintain its effort to complete as much of the Plan as possible within available resources



## **Agenda Item 6: Reports from Standing Committee Members and Observers**

### **Agenda Item 6.a: Reports from Members from the 5 CMS Regions**

50. The Chair called upon the Members of the Committee to give reports from their regions. Written reports had been received from: United Kingdom and Ukraine (Europe), Australia (Oceania), Peru (Americas). These are attached as annexes to the report.

51. UK (Western Europe): The UK highlighted its role in a research contract into Climate Change, Avian Influenza and seabird bycatch (through the Atlantic Tuna Commission, the US and Australia). Germany had donated €1million to the Wings over Wetlands project and had hosted a symposium on marine protected areas as part of Year of the Dolphin. The UK had given £10,000 towards developing online reporting, a similar amount to the shark initiative and had led on raptors. France had supported the gorilla agreement negotiations; Spain had led the way on monk seals and Atlantic cetaceans. 2008 would be a busy year with CBD, IUCN and CMS conferences all occurring in western Europe.

52. Australia (Oceania): Further to Margi Prideaux's report on the Pacific Island Cetacean MOU, further signatures were expected soon. Australia had supported the first meeting of signatories financially and was leading on the dugong initiative supporting the United Arab Emirates. New Zealand had introduced full protection for the great white shark and was considering similar measures for the whale shark. Samoa was undertaking important research into cetaceans and marine turtles.

53. Chad (Francophone Africa): a number of countries in the region had responded to the request for updates. Progress was being made with action plans for marine turtles and dugongs and developing the Sahelo-Saharan Antelope initiative. While many Action Plans were progressing, the funding to implement had still to be found and any assistance CMS could provide would be welcome.

54. Ukraine (Central and Eastern Europe): the first meeting of the Eurobats standing Committee had taken place in March in Bonn followed by the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Advisory Committee in Budapest. The 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the signatories of the Siberian crane MOU had taken place in Kazakhstan. The bilateral Ukrainian-Russian fisheries commission for the Sea of Asov had met and had discussed the depletion of sturgeon stocks. At the MOP of ACCOBAMS in Dubrovnik, among the measures adopted was an action plan for the Black Sea. The Loch Lomond raptor meeting was significant for the Central and Eastern European region. Finally, a high level delegation from the Russian Federation had visited the Secretariat.

55. Saudi Arabia (Asia): Mohammad Saud Sulayem explained that he had recently assumed responsibility for CMS within the NCWCD. He presented the regards of the agency's Secretary General, Prince Al Saud. Efforts to recruit new members from the region had been rewarded with the accession of Yemen. The Islamic Republic of Iran was expected to join shortly. China, the Russian Federation, Afghanistan, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Bahrain were all possible candidates, and some of them already participated in MOUs. Saudi Arabia had been promoting CMS along with other MEAs in the Arab League.

56. The dugong meeting held in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates had been a success with 7 countries signing the MOU which had therefore entered into force.

57. The Houbara Bustard MOU would be receiving Saudi Arabia's full attention and had support from the highest levels. The text and the action plan were close to completion and significant progress could be expected within months. Finally, the parties in the region would appreciate the Secretariat organising a capacity building event in Western Asia, preferably in Arabic.

58. Peru (Americas): Recruitment in the region had been successful with the accessions of Honduras, Costa Rica and Antigua & Barbuda, and Cuba about to join. Further accessions could be expected as interest was being shown from El Salvador and Nicaragua. Two MOUs had been signed – on the ruddy-headed goose and Southern South American grassland birds. The latter had been signed by Brazil. Another draft MOU on flamingos was progressing.

59. A number of meetings had been held, covering topics such as climate change and avian influenza. CMS and Ramsar had organised a workshop for decision makers in the region in Panama with support from Spain. This workshop also saw the regional launch of the Year of the Dolphin. A workshop had also been held in Uruguay on migratory birds and rice field habitats as well as a meeting on Atlantic marine turtles. Many countries were pursuing initiatives on migratory species: Paraguay was leading on grassland birds, Argentina on the ruddy-headed goose, and Peru on the Humboldt penguin. In order to build on the success of the Panama workshop, it was hoped that another such event could be organised in the region prior to the COP to help maximise the contribution of the parties of the Americas to the Convention. Peru offered to act as host.

#### **Agenda Item 6b: Report from Host Country and Depositary**

60. Germany: the Host Country had continued its efforts to recruit parties through the Foreign Office, embassies and links to environment ministries. Since the last Standing Committee, Angola, Yemen, Madagascar, Honduras, Costa Rica and Antigua & Barbuda had joined bringing the total membership to 104. Countries being targeted for recruitment included Armenia, Botswana, Brazil, China, Estonia, Haiti, Russia and Zimbabwe. Accession papers from Palau had been received in draft.

61. The Environment Ministry (BMU) had jointly hosted a party to celebrate the accession of the 100<sup>th</sup> Party to CMS. The BMU had held a number of meetings with their Russian counterparts. No progress was likely while the Russian presidential election campaign was under way, making succession before COP9 challenging. BMU officials had also visited China, and in the margins of the Loch Lomond meeting, the Turkish representative had been lobbied. It was also intended to use the CBD COP in Bonn in 2008 to promote CMS.

#### **Agenda Item 6c: Report from the Chairman of the Scientific Council**

62. John Mshelbwala reported on the work of the Council since the last Standing Committee which would also be covered in part by the agenda item on the outcomes of the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Council. Three new appointed councillors had taken office, Professor Yeboah (African fauna), Dr Hogan (fish) and Mr Baker (bycatch) and all had attended the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

63. John Mshelbwala presented his report (Inf Doc 3) of the fact finding mission undertaken by Prof Yeboah and him following reports of VIP hunting parties killing rare antelopes near the Termit nature reserve in Niger. Some evidence of hunting had been found but the perpetrators could not be identified. However, the fact that CMS had responded to the reports had had some positive effect, both in the Nigerien authorities and the diplomatic community. The team had not

been able to visit the Termit which was very remote and inaccessible, which itself presented problems for the national authorities in mounting patrols.

64. At the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting, a review had been started of the Council's modus operandi to address the problems of the Convention's success in attracting more parties. The Council had grown in size and the number of parties eligible for support in travelling to meetings had risen too. Proposals to limit membership, reduce the frequency of meetings and increase reliance on electronic communication would place developing countries at a disadvantage. The Council felt that it was important that as many councillors as possible participated in the COP to explain at first hand the scientific advice. A Council Working Group chaired by Ghana advocated retaining the current system as far as possible but with greater use of intersessional working groups communicating electronically or through correspondence rather than physical meetings. Proposals would be developed for the parties to decide at COP9. The Standing Committee endorsed the retention of the current schedule of meetings, given that the cost of the next Council immediately before the COP would be relatively modest (c €30k and members' travel costs). The COP itself would be able to determine arrangements beyond then.

65. Regarding the Small Grants Programme (SGP), John Mshelbwala regretted that this flagship of CMS had suffered from under-resourcing now that little funding was available from the Trust Fund. Accordingly, no new project proposals had been considered at the 14<sup>th</sup> Council, as there was still a long list of proposals awaiting funding. The Council had asked its chairman to draft a declaration (contained in his written report) stressing the importance of the SGP as seed funding for the solid science upon which CMS prided itself.

66. Saudi Arabia shared the concerns about illegal hunting and its consequences, but sought assurance that any report published would be firmly based on fact and avoid undiplomatic language and unfounded accusations aimed at named individuals. Solutions were more likely to be found through discussions. He also asked what steps CMS could take if it were found that the hunting had taken place with legal presidential permits. Pierre Devillers said that he had heard reports that the hunting party had just returned to Niger and the situation should be closely monitored. France shared Saudi Arabia's concerns about adopting an appropriate response to rumours and that accusing the hunting parties might prove to be counter-productive. The Chairman thanked John Mshelbwala for his report and for undertaking the mission and asked Lahcen El Kabiri to liaise with interested parties to consider next steps.

#### **Agenda Item 6d: Reports from UNEP and CMS Partners**

67. Ivonne Higuero (UNEP): UNEP had been building stronger links to CMS and its Agreements, providing substantive support to the harmonisation of legislation project, which had seen Liberia adopt new laws to implement several MEAs in October 2006. Compliance indicators were being developed for CITES and CBD as was a compliance manual for all MEAs. UNEP was also involved in the harmonisation of reporting project with CMS, AEWa and IOSEA. A series of workshops had been held in connection with knowledge management and national reporting with CBD, CITES, Ramsar and the CMS family.

68. With funding from Belgium and working with IUCN, a modular project examining four themes (biodiversity and climate change; inland waters; sustainable use and invasive alien species) was drawing together different MEA policies. The modules were being tested in pilot countries.

69. Through GRASP, UNEP was intervening in the serious crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to provide legal support and humanitarian aid for displaced persons to try to alleviate the pressures on gorilla populations.

70. Regional workshops had been held in Yemen and Panama, and through the Regional Seas Programmes significant progress had been achieved for dugongs in Indonesia where a national action plan had been drawn up, and problems relating to shark predation and bycatch had also been addressed. UNEP continued to support the IOSEA marine turtle MOU through its Bangkok office and the GEF project for Siberian Cranes.

71. UNON and UNEP had provided staff training for the new accounts system (IMIS), had supported the upgrading of the Administration and Fund Management Officer post to P4 and had provided \$115,000 for projects such as the "CMS Family Guide".

72. John O'Sullivan (BirdLife International) reported on a continuing excellent relationship with the Convention and its Agreements. He did not propose to repeat the many examples of cooperation that had already been mentioned at the meeting, for instance on the development of new Memoranda of Understanding and Action Plans. Instead, he gave some news of several Appendix I bird species. It was good to report the finding of a hitherto unknown large non-breeding concentration of over three thousand sociable lapwings (*Vanellus gregarius*) in southeast Turkey. This discovery was enabled by the fact that satellite transmitters were now small and light enough for birds of this size to carry them, enabling much better understanding and conservation throughout their migratory ranges. Not all the news was so good, however. The spoon-billed sandpiper (*Eurynorhynchus pygmaeus*) had experienced a further decline on its Far Eastern Russian breeding grounds, and it was now feared that there may only be 200-300 breeding pairs left. Continuing destruction of habitat in its east and southeast Asian non-breeding grounds was probably the main threat. The red knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*) also continued to decline, probably mainly as a result of over-exploitation of horseshoe crabs in the eastern USA, but noteworthy was a sudden die-off involving well over a thousand birds in south eastern Uruguay in April, possibly as result of algal blooms.

73. The BirdLife delegate reported that a new and alarming threat had emerged to one of the great migratory bird spectacles of the world. The lesser flamingo (*Phoenicopterus minor*) was a major tourist attraction in East Africa, where something like a million birds formed an astonishing pink horizon around several Rift Valley lakes. All of these birds were hatched at one site, Lake Natron, in Tanzania, which held three-quarters of the world population of the species. The lake was now threatened by a proposal to extract soda ash, together with associated development, which together would be likely to result in damage, disturbance and increased predation to this truly unique population. BirdLife International was doing all in its power to raise awareness of the issue, and to ensure the fullest possible consideration was given to alternatives. It was an unfortunate coincidence that the relevant Standing Committee regional representative, which happened to be Tanzania, could not be present at this meeting, but BirdLife hoped that members of the Committee would take note of the matter, and act appropriately.

74. Hemmo Muntingh (IFAW) described CMS as a "beautiful organisation" and congratulated all concerned on recent achievements. He saw his organisation as a natural ally of CMS with shared interests in whales, dugongs and seals. He was pleased to announce that IFAW was prepared to follow WDCS's example and make available a member of staff to the secretariat to work on marine mammals for a year. The Chair welcomed this offer and the Executive Secretary said that, as with WDCS, it should be possible to complete the arrangements within UN staffing and resource parameters.

**Action:** IFAW to supply a member of staff to assist the Secretariat on marine matters

75. Peter Dollinger (WAZA) referred to his written report covering WAZA's first year as a CMS partner. AEWA had held its advisory committee at WAZA's Bern offices. He regretted that WAZA had been prevented from participating in YOD because of objections from other partners including one of the Agreements. The Executive Secretary said that lessons had been learnt from the operation of "Year of the Dolphin" and that CMS appreciated the considerable support given by WAZA and their understanding and flexibility in finding an acceptable compromise regarding YOD.

76. Alison Wood (WDCS): WDCS was pleased to be a partner in YOD in particular and of CMS in general working to build the cetacean agreements and towards meeting the 2010 biodiversity targets. WDCS would share its science and data and would continue to encourage non-parties and non-signatories to join CMS agreements and MOUs. WDCS welcomed CMS's initiative for cetaceans in the eastern Atlantic, and hoped that work would begin in earnest in other regions. The resolution passed at COP8 on human induced threats would be examined when the Cetacean Liaison Group met in Bonn in January 2008. The work undertaken by ASCOBANS and ACCOBAMS was praised.

#### **Agenda Item 7: CMS and Environmental Governance.**

77. The Executive Secretary introduced paper CMS/StC32/6 setting out CMS's role in the wider UN context of environmental governance being led from New York, Nairobi and Geneva. He reported that, while it was important for CMS to maintain its profile and make its input in the greater scheme, it was difficult for a relatively small secretariat to keep abreast of all wider developments while pursuing its own core duties. The Secretariat requested Parties to ensure that the wider debate was properly informed about CMS. The Secretariat could provide briefing. This would reduce competing pressures on the secretariat and the Trust Fund, from which €26,000 had already been spent during 2007 mainly in staff time as the secretariat responded to a variety of often repetitive requests for information from UN HQ offices.

78. He went on to opine that CMS needed to work with other MEAs on these issues. The forthcoming CBD COP in Bonn presented an opportunity for CMS to host a meeting of the Biodiversity Liaison Group.

**Action:** CMS Secretariat to arrange a Biodiversity Liaison Group meeting to be held during the CBD CoP.

79. Christiane Paulus (Germany) welcomed the paper and promised that the BMU and the German Government would follow developments agreeing that it was important that CMS's interests were represented.

80. Cheryle Hislop (Australia) asked to what extent CMS needed to participate in the discussions, what criteria were used to decide whether to attend, how parties had been consulted for their approval and whom CMS represented at such meetings.

81. Trevor Salmon (UK) had similar concerns and asked whether the UN instigated costs to the Secretariat were met from the 13% overheads. He asked for clarification that participation in environmental governance meetings was a priority for the secretariat as identified in the work plan.

82. The Executive Secretary said that a series of COP resolutions provided a mandate for the Secretariat to engage in UN-wide synergies initiatives. The costs of participating were borne by the core budget. He believed that CMS should try to be engaged as the initiatives were driven by the General Assembly and the Governing Council, which implied Party approval, but the limit for a small organisation such as CMS had been reached.

83. The Chairman summarising comments from the UK and France, said that the Executive Secretary would have to decide which meetings to attend and which questionnaires to answer and how to balance these exercises with the other core CMS workload. It was incumbent on parties to liaise internally and for the Secretariat to make the most of forums like the BLG.

#### **Agenda Item 6: Reports from Standing Committee Members and Observers (continued)**

##### **Agenda Item 6(e): Reports from Agreements Secretariats**

84. Bert Lenten (AEWA) reported that considerable progress had been made thanks to the hard work of the Secretariat staff and the generosity of the parties in providing voluntary contributions. However, to implement MOP decisions fully, a budget of €5million would be needed and only 10% of this sum had been made available. AEWA had 59 Parties with a further 6 or so accessions in the pipeline. Mr Lenten expressed his gratitude to the German Government who had extended to a third year the term of a Junior Professional Officer.

85. AEWA was one of the main partners in the African-Eurasian Flyway GEF-funded project also known as “Wings over Wetlands” project along with Wetlands International, BirdLife International and Ramsar. This US\$12 million project was being half funded by GEF with the remaining US\$6m to come from matching funds from several donors. Germany was one of the major donors having committed itself to contribute €1m. AEWA had committed itself to contribute US\$1.3m of which €800,000 had not yet been secured. Mr Lenten requested all countries present to support this project; which was one of the largest so far developed within the CMS Family.

86. Florian Keil (Information Officer, AEWA) gave a presentation on the “Wings over Wetlands” project. The associated video produced by the project’s chief technical adviser, Edoardo Zandri, was shown during the lunchtime of the second day of the meeting. The Project Coordination Unit (PCU) had been set up at Wetlands International’s office in Wageningen in July 2006 and the project itself was launched at a press conference in Bonn in November the same year. The website was nearly ready and would be on line soon.

87. WOW was a partnership project in which Wetlands International, BirdLife International, Ramsar, AEWA and UNEP/WCMC were participating alongside many national and local partners. One important element of the project was the “critical site network tool” which combined existing databases run by Wetlands International, BirdLife International and UNEP/WCMC and was aimed to help decision makers.

88. The project included eleven demonstration elements each focusing on best wetlands management practice. Project managers had visited all the locations and funding was beginning to flow through. Details of all eleven sub-projects would be posted on the website. More money was however needed to take the capacity building and training “toolkit” out into the field. It was important to instil the concept of a “flyway approach” across the project area. A number of regional hubs were being established under the project (in Moscow, Almaty, Dakar, Amman and Nairobi).

89. Andreas Streit (Eurobats) referred to his written report (Inf Doc 10.1) and reported that the recent institutional changes in Eurobats, namely establishing a smaller, separate Standing Committee to deal with administrative matters, had been a success. The Technical Committee was now able to concentrate on scientific issues. A new publication concerning the protection of underground sites had been made possible thanks to support from the governments of the UK and the Netherlands (copies were made available at the meeting).

90. Written reports had also been received from IOSEA and ACCOBAMS. The report from the ASCOBANS Secretariat was deferred and would be taken with the report on the merger (item 8.2)

## **Agenda Item 8: Resources**

### **Agenda Item 8.a: Secretariat Manpower and Organisation: Towards the Future Shape of CMS**

91. The Executive Secretary introduced document CMS/Stc32.7 entitled “Towards the Future Shape of CMS” which he explained was a discussion paper indicating possible options for the evolution of the organisation. Any decisions would have to be taken by the COP but it would be helpful to start the debate at this juncture. He suggested that the proposals contained in the paper were radical but realistic, would involve some additional costs but would ensure the best use of resources. The paper also covered two other issues: the flexible use of consultants and interns on an ad hoc basis to cover the staffing needs of the Secretariat and the question of delegation of authority which was being discussed within UNEP to allow MEA secretariats greater autonomy on routine financial and personnel issues. In the end the shape adopted would depend on what Parties felt they could afford. He emphasised that decisions were not being sought from the Committee on future budget levels, on regional nodes, or on the precise way to find greater synergies within the CMS Family. These would need to be taken later, principally by the COP: However he requested the Committee not to “close off” options: continuing to make use of consultants over the next year would facilitate this. He also hoped the committee would start the ball rolling towards a written agreement with UNEP, on financial and other administrative delegation which had been recommended in UN Auditors’ reports, and would improve efficiency.

92. CMS was progressing on the basis of a solid Strategic Plan, he stated, endorsed by Parties at COP8 which plotted the Convention’s future course to 2011. However, there had been an imbalance between the policies adopted and the resources made available for their implementation, despite the relatively large percentage increase in the budget. The gap was best illustrated by the list of projects contained in Inf Doc 12, which required several million euros in voluntary contributions if they were to be carried out. The €1.3 million received was encouraging, and a great improvement on previous years, but there was still a gap between resources and the approved programme. The budget approved in 2005 had not increased the number of permanent staff, hence the greater use of short-term consultants. The recruitment of JPOs for CMS had not materialised, despite a decade of efforts in this direction.

93. CMS had undergone a period of rapid growth both in terms of parties (likely to reach at least 110 before the next COP) and regional MOUs and agreements. Much of the growth was taking place outside the heartlands of Europe and Africa. Partnership agreements with NGOs and other UN bodies had also increased the Convention’s outreach potential. CMS was also becoming more involved in global issues, like climate change, marine pollution, sustainable use and environmental governance (see earlier agenda item). As the Convention’s workload increased and changed, the Secretariat needed to be constructed in the most suitable way to achieve most efficient implementation. Greater use of IT could reduce the number of meetings

saving time and money. With the growing number of agreements, he postulated that it was time to reconsider how to manage the different instruments and address the problem of countries located on the intersections of various agreements (e.g. Spain and Portugal falling within Agreement Areas of related instruments like ACCOBAMS, ASCOBANS and the Western African cetacean MOU)

94. Drawing key points from the paper, the Executive Secretary highlighted paragraph 16 which set out the need to modernise structures and extend the Secretariat's capacity outside its HQ. The Ramsar Convention had chosen a centralised approach to the regions but this had costs, and the Executive Secretary expressed the fear that if CMS continued to expand as it did, the organisation would become too top-heavy. He felt that there was a case for locating some staff nearer to key hot spots. The experience of having a mini-hub in Bangkok running the IOSEA marine turtle MOU had proved successful and he advocated exploring the possibility of collaborating with other MEAs. Paragraph 24 gave examples of possible locations for satellite nodes. Given the Sahelo-Saharan Antelope project, the elephant, marine turtle and new small cetacean MOUs and the Gorilla agreement, Africa was a prime candidate. Panama had excellent facilities where UNEP could co-host a small node to serve as a centre for Latin America which had recently concluded two MOUs (grassland birds and ruddy-headed goose) with the prospects of a third (flamingos) shortly. SPREP could serve a similar role in the Pacific. Paragraph 36 dealt with the future functions of the Bonn HQ which would include information, fundraising and publications, with these services partly shared between CMS, AEWa and Eurobats. The science, data, marine and cross cutting policy unit (responsible for inputs on climate change) would also be based in Bonn. Recent contacts with the US authorities and collaboration with other MEAs meant that there was a prospect of establishing a small office in Washington or New York.

95. The paper proposed a structure would involve the creation of 13 new posts leading to an increase of only 11% in the budget because of lower costs in developing countries. The cost models were based on real examples (e.g. Apia, Samoa and Dakar, Senegal) and had been well researched. However these were put forward as examples not prescriptions. Most of the proposed new posts were at lower professional grades. Negotiation of the details of the grades and numbers should be left until later, and the Executive Secretary suggested that the first examination of the finances should be left until the second day's closed session when delegates would have had a chance to digest the information fully.

96. The Chair opened the floor to the Committee members asking at this juncture for general comments and initial reactions only. He reiterated that the paper covered three different aspects: the flexible use of interns and consultancies; financial and administrative delegation; and the future structure of the Secretariat.

97. Mahamat Idriss (Chad) agreed that delegates needed some time to give a considered response. Trevor Salmon (UK) commented that the three aspects were of different levels of complexity, with the use of interns and consultants easy to approve but the restructuring plans needing prolonged scrutiny. He supported the establishment of an inter-sessional working group but added that it might be optimistic to hope for approval of all proposals at the next COP. He also wanted wider harmonisation and synergy exercises to be taken into account. Isaac Roberto Angeles Lazo (Peru) thanked the Secretariat for producing the paper. As the Spanish version had only recently been made available he believed that a thorough consultation exercise was necessary and as representative of his region, he wanted the opportunity of discussing the proposals fully with the other countries. He welcomed the proposal to form a working group. Christiane Paulus (Germany) thanked the Executive Secretary for his thought-provoking paper. She supported the UK agreeing that parties needed time to reflect on the options available.



Parties were bound to have many questions and she was not convinced that more engagement in the regions necessarily meant that regional nodes had to be established; other models had to be considered, as a series of smaller offices across the world might lose synergies and not be the most efficient structure for a Secretariat the size of CMS.

98. Cheryle Hislop (Australia) also congratulated the Secretariat for their exploratory paper. The debate had started in Oceania. She felt that the new structure had to be effective and financially sound. The establishment of regionalised nodes was a significant departure from the status quo that parties would have to decide at COP. The draft proposal needed to be elaborated but she did not think that the paper presented to COP needed the Standing Committee's endorsement. Alternatives to regional nodes should be fully explored. The use of interns and consultants seemed uncontroversial and should continue.

99. Volodymyr Domashlinets (Ukraine) congratulated the Secretariat for their detailed paper which addressed the complexity of the issues. He agreed that the proposal needed full consideration and agreed that a working group should be established prior to CoP9. The regional agreement secretariats should also be involved. Véronique Herrenschmidt (France) congratulated the Secretariat for having taken the time to produce such a valuable paper, highlighting some of the options before the Convention. She too thought that alternatives needed to be fully explored and that the full membership of the Convention needed to be involved to widen the ownership of the proposals, and ultimately reach consensus on how to proceed at COP9. Internal synergies needed to be maximised, but she recalled an earlier discussion about centralising all the Agreement secretariats, but ultimately it was agreed to leave ACCOBAMS in Monaco. Martin Lok (Netherlands) echoed earlier comments and congratulated the Secretariat on the paper: the need for the debate was a sign of CMS's success. As a successful "business" CMS now had to address its future. He particularly liked the multi-species approach to future structures, however he also wanted time to reflect on other options, and learn from the experience of the CMS-ASCOBANS merger. He proposed, and it was agreed, that the time before the COP be used to draw up terms of reference for a working group to be established at COP, which could consider the Strategic Plan in parallel.

**ACTION:** The Secretariat to establish an electronic working group to prepare a discussion paper and terms of reference for CoP9 to consider

#### **Agenda Item 5: CMS Strategic Plan 2006-11 (continued)**

#### **Agenda Item 5c: CMS Strategic Plan (Resolutions 8.2 and 8.5): Report on Progress made by Agreements**

100. Deputy Executive Secretary, Lahcen El Kabiri introduced Doc CMS/Stc32.5 relating to two resolutions from COP8. Resolution 8.2 had established the revised Strategic Plan and invited agreements to discuss this with their advisory bodies. Resolution 8.5 dealt with existing and future agreements, and harmonisation of their Action Plans with that of the parent Convention. Of the Agreements, AEWA had made most progress with developing strategic planning and the issue had been discussed at the AEWA Standing Committee. Andreas Streit (Eurobats) explained that while his Agreement did not have a Strategic Plan, it did have a conservation and management plan which essentially served the same purpose.

101. The Standing Committee was asked for its views, given that strategic planning was related to environmental governance and the future shape of the Convention. It was agreed to continue to seek the input of agreements and to monitor the progress made by AEWA in meeting the terms of the Resolution. Bert Lenten (AEWA) stressed that producing a Strategic Plan was a valuable

management tool, both in terms of measuring achievement and identifying possible synergies with other organisations, not least CMS.

## **Agenda Item 9: Follow-up on Outstanding StC31 and COP8 Decisions (continued)**

### **Agenda Item 9.c: Article IV Agreements (Resolution 8.5) including Future Strategy**

102. The Executive Secretary explained that the departure of the Agreements Officer had meant that no paper had been produced to cover this item. One was in the process of being drafted reviewing the current situation. This would be circulated in advance of the next Standing Committee meeting in 2008. New guidelines were needed for this important aspect of the Convention's development. On finance, it was clear that future MOUs would need to be more financially independent as the parent Convention could not automatically provide secretariat services from its own resources. One option might be for each MOU to have one party act as "champion", both during and after negotiation as Australia had done for the Pacific Islands cetaceans MOU. The Convention could follow up the conclusion of an MOU with a targeted project where resources allowed.

103. The meeting to negotiate the Gorillas agreement passed a resolution which called upon the Standing Committee to mandate the CMS Secretariat to provide interim administrative support with GRASP providing technical advice and to make arrangements for the first meeting of the parties. The rapid negotiation of the agreement meant that there was still some money left over. The Agreement was the first to include specific arrangements for synergising with related organisations. The Standing Committee agreed to give the Secretariat the required mandate.

104. John Hilborn (Acting Agreements Officer) summarised where the Secretariat stood with regard to current and future negotiations for instruments. Second meetings would be required to finalise the MOUs for West African cetaceans and world raptors. A preliminary exploratory meeting was scheduled for December in the Seychelles to consider options for sharks, with an MOU under CMS as one of the choices. The second meeting of signatories of the Great Bustard MOU was due as were a meeting of signatories of the African marine turtle MOU and the fifth meeting of the IOSEA MOU. The first MOP of the gorilla agreement would be fully integrated with CMS COP9. A meeting for a marine turtle MOU in the Pacific needed to be scheduled and would be hosted by Samoa. There were insufficient funds in the core budget to cover all these meetings.

105. Cheryle Hislop (Australia) sought clarification of the Secretariat's preferred outcome from the sharks meeting, as an agreement, an MOU and a partnership seemed all to be on the table. John Hilborn said that the Secretariat was open-minded but would ask the meeting to thoroughly explore the case for some sort of instrument under the auspices of the Convention.

106. Christiane Paulus (Germany) asked whether the Secretariat had sufficient staff to manage the ambitious list of meetings described and whether higher priority was attached to implementing existing instruments or negotiating new ones in the run up to the COP.

107. The Executive Secretary said that the Secretariat could cope with this number of meetings, but probably no more. Funding was in place for the sharks meeting in December 2007, the Great Bustard meeting in the Ukraine and the West African turtles meeting in Dakar. IOSEA was financially self-supporting and the cost of the Gorilla meeting would be substantially reduced by the decision to hold in conjunction with the COP. He was anxious to keep the momentum gained at the WATCH and would consider either completing the negotiations through correspondence or combining the meeting with the African turtle MOU. The United Arab

Emirates had offered to host the second raptor meeting but funding was required (the Loch Lomond meeting had cost \$250,000). There was scope for running the Pacific marine turtles meeting back-to-back with the PIC MoU. Australia had promised to support this meeting, but more funding was needed.

## **Agenda Item 8: Resources**

### **Agenda Item 8.b: Merger of CMS Secretariat and ASCOBANS: Progress**

108. Addressing both item 6e, the report from ASCOBANS and 8b an account of progress under the merger of CMS and ASCOBANS, Marco Barbieri ran through the main points contained in Inf Doc 10.7. The main activities over the past year had been the conclusion of MOP5 which had agreed the merger, the third meeting of the Jastarnia Group in Copenhagen, the Advisory Committee in San Sebastian and the workshops jointly organised with the European Cetacean Society on wind farms and selection criteria for marine protected areas and the ASCOBANS/HELCOM genetics and population structure workshops in Bonn. Progress was being made on a North Sea Action Plan to mirror the Jastarnia Plan in the Baltic.

109. ASCOBANS had supported a project on acoustic surveys in the Baltic through the German voluntary contribution, with associated events in Sweden and Finland. As in previous years, the International Day of the Baltic Harbour Porpoise had been celebrated under the auspices of ASCOBANS throughout the Baltic region. The Secretariat had in particular organised an event in Cologne. A newsletter had been produced in June with another due shortly. Secretariat staff had participated events at the Wadden Sea and at Stralsund (in connection with YOD) and the ACCOBAMS MOP in Dubrovnik.

110. Marco Barbieri (Scientific and Technical Officer) introduced Doc CMS/StC 32.8 on the merger which had been effected on 1 January 2007 mentioning the new staffing arrangements involving him, a coordinator spending 75% of her time on ASCOBANS work and the rest on CMS marine mammals issues under a consultancy and a part time administrative assistant.

111. The merger had enabled synergies between CMS and ASCOBANS to be enhanced, and the coordinator's joint role extended ASCOBANS' outreach potential. Concerning CMS work, the coordinator had played a pivotal role in organising the WATCH event. Some adjustment of the staff time allocation between ASCOBANS and CMS had proved necessary to address some teething troubles and to deal with additional tasks requested at the Advisory Committee concerning the accounts. Although the merger had been approved with no party voting against, there appeared to be a residual scepticism about the new arrangements among parts of the ASCOBANS constituency. On occasions this had turned to hostility which had hindered progress. The Dutch government had promised funding for a review of the merger.

112. The paper contained five points for the Standing Committee to consider: noting progress made so far; confirming its support for the merger; expressing appreciation of the work of the marine mammals officer; thanking the Dutch government for its offer to fund the review and requesting ASCOBANS parties to make no further demands of the Secretariat relating to pre-merger matters.

113. The Chair first mentioned that a useful meeting had been held immediately on the eve of the Standing Committee with the chairman of the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee and then said that he thought that the first four points were straightforward. Christiane Paulus (Germany) agreed that the meeting had been useful in helping to identify means of making further progress with the new secretariat up to the next MOP and addressing the concerns expressed by critics of

the merger. She however thought it was inappropriate for the CMS Standing Committee to make requests of the ASCOBANS parties. Alison Wood (WDCS) reminding the meeting of the input of WDCS and other NGOs in ASCOBANS, urged parties to look to the future rather than the past and dedicate more time and effort to conservation rather than administrative issues. Martin Lok (Netherlands) welcomed the report and thanked the Secretariat for guiding ASCOBANS through a turbulent period. He agreed that progress was being made and supported WDCS's view that more time should be spent looking forwards and dealing with conservation. He asked that the fifth point either be deleted or reworded, as the trust of the sceptics would best be won through being open.

114. Summarising, the Chair said that the future of ASCOBANS was a common interest of CMS and ASCOBANS parties, and agreed that an open and positive dialogue would be the best way forward. Recommendations (a) – (d) in the paper were agreed. Recommendation (e) should be expressed positively – i.e. that the Secretariat and ASCOBANS Parties should conclude outstanding issues on the 2005 accounts as soon as possible and concentrate on substantive conservation issues to maximise the synergies now available through the merger.

### **Agenda Item 8c: Status of the CMS Trust Funds 2006-8**

115. Lahcen El Kabiri introduced document StC 32/9 setting out the status of the two CMS Trust Funds and demonstrating a generally healthy picture. He commented that 40% of CMS parties paid their annual subscriptions regularly. Of the rest, 15% had opted to make a single payment for the triennium, 15% were slightly late with their subscriptions and 30% had arrears. The Committee's view on the appropriate action to take on arrears was sought. Annex III of the paper showed the results of efforts to persuade parties to make voluntary contributions. Annex IV detailed expenditure.

116. Christiane Paulus (Germany) asked where the costs of engaging consultants could be found in the tables and expressed concern that the travel budget line had already been overspent by 22% with two months of the year still to go. The Executive Secretary explained that consultancies would appear against different budget lines and expenditure on travel had exceeded the amount provided because of the Secretariat's need to travel as indicated in the work plan. Every effort was made to reduce the numbers of staff attending and servicing meetings. The Convention had been helped by the move from the US\$ to the euro and by the prompt payment by France and Australia of their subscriptions. Argentina had promised to clear its arrears.

117. The Chairman sought views on appropriate action for parties in arrears, as non-payment had led to cashflow problems of another MEA. The Secretariat noted that suspension of voting rights and withdrawal of travel subsidies had been considered in the past, and further recommendations might be appropriate at the next COP.

**Action:** Secretariat to prepare an options paper for consideration at CoP9

### **Agenda Item 8d: Fundraising**

118. The Executive Secretary drew attention to Annex 3 of paper CMS/StC32/9 and the project list (Inf 12) He was pleased to report record levels of voluntary contributions, which had increased by a factor of three. New contributions had just been confirmed by France for gorillas and African Elephants. More funds were needed however if all the projects listed on Inf Doc 12, totalling €5.25m, were to be implemented.

119. The Sahelo-Saharan Antelope project was being funded through grants from the Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial and €2million from the European Commission. The equivalent of €0.5m had been received from TUI and the private sector had provided additional in-kind support. UNEP too had provided grants.

120. The "Friends of CMS" had obtained grants from Bayer and Lufthansa and had agreed to make money available for gorilla project work in the Congo basin. Professor Klaus Töpfer had stepped down as chairman of the Friends and had been replaced by Professor Niekisch but continued his association as patron.

121. The Peruvian delegate expressed his thanks to the Secretariat for their successful fundraising programme.

### **Agenda Item 9: Follow-up on Outstanding StC31 and COP8 Decisions**

#### **Agenda Item 9a: Review of ScC14 Recommendations including Small Grant Projects**

122. Marco Barbieri added briefly to the report on the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Scientific Council. With 80 participants it had been the largest meeting of the Council, but restricted funds meant that not all eligible Councillors could be supported. In response to the request to consider its modus operandi, the Council had agreed to enhance its intersessional work through regional, taxonomic and thematic working groups. In particular, thematic Working Groups had been established for By-catch (led by Barry Baker, Appointed Councillor), Climate Change (led by the Colin Galbraith, vice-chair of the Council), Migratory Species Diseases (led by Robert Schlatter, Appointed Councillor) and Sustainable Use (led by Pierre Devillers, vice-chair of the Council).

123. The meeting had considered candidate species for listing on CMS Appendices, including several bird species, terrestrial mammals, sharks and cetaceans. In particular, the Council had examined and endorsed draft listing proposals for several terrestrial mammal and cetacean species, for which Parties interested in submitting them formally for consideration by the COP were to be identified. Action Plans for African migratory bird species would be developed using Italian funding and the terms of reference for the studies on obstacles to migration and bycatch had been agreed. The report had also produced a formal statement in support of the recommendation of the Edinburgh "Waterbirds around the World" conference, the proceedings of which had recently been published. The meeting noted this update.

#### **Agenda Item 9b: National Reports, Information Management System and IT (Resolutions 8.9, 8.10 & 8.24)**

124. Francisco Rilla (Information and Capacity Building officer) introduced document StC32.13. He said that CMS relied on sound information from its parties upon which to base its decisions and COP8 had agreed to a review of the reporting format. Two exercises were being conducted in parallel, one relating to harmonisation across the CMS family and the biodiversity conventions and another to develop on-line reporting. The Scientific Council had been consulted, and the Secretariat had developed a reporting form which could either be downloaded as a Word document or alternatively completed online. The Standing Committee in turn was asked to endorse the new format.

125. Cheryle Hislop (Australia) said she supported the move towards on-line reporting and asked to table an information document on an initiative launched in Oceania.

126. Gerardo Fragoso (WCMC) pointed out five advantages of on-line reporting: it was a continuous process, so there would be no rush reporting in the run-up to a meeting; any authorised expert could submit reports relieving the burden on the focal point; the system could automatically generate reports and archive old data; the system was adaptable, so future MOUs could be added on without difficulty; and countries preferring or having to use old, low tech methods could still do so. Further refinements would have to be made to address the special circumstances of countries like the UK and France with a number of overseas territories in different parts of the world.

127. Trevor Salmon (UK) had a number of comments which he could discuss with the Secretariat. He felt some questions were superfluous and more attention should be paid to reporting outcomes rather than inputs. It was later reported by the Secretariat that most of the comments had been accepted, as they concerned detail rather than structure.

128. Francisco Rilla set out the timetable for producing the final version which after having been translated in French and Spanish would be made available in December in time for parties to start preparing their reports for COP9. The Executive Secretary commented that the format was essentially tried and tested.

129. The meeting approved the recommendations in StC32.13

#### **Agenda Item 9e: Flyway Status Report (StC31)**

130. Anne Devillers (Special Assistant, CM Secretariat) gave a presentation on flyways and introduced the Secretariat's detailed paper (Doc StC32.16). This had been requested by the previous meeting of the Standing Committee.

131. She explained that the concept of flyways had first arisen in America and it had spread to Eurasia. It was most commonly used with water- and shorebirds. Boere and Stroud had devised five regions with some overlaps. These were: Africa-Eurasia (cf AEWA); Central Asia; East Asia and Australasia (including Alaska) – this flyway was subject of a type II partnership and a meeting of the range states was taking place in Beijing just after the Standing Committee; the Americas (divided into four sub-flyways) and the Pacific.

132. The Executive Secretary added that an Action Plan was about to be published concerning the Central Asian Flyway under a trilateral agreement between CMS, Wetlands International and the Indian government. The paper would need refining and the entry on America expanded and the Scientific Council would have to be involved. The aim would be to draw up a resolution for COP9 identifying priorities for CMS in the flyways, with CAF and the East Asian/Australasian flyways being the most likely choices.

133. Christiane Paulus (Germany) saw the potential problem of a proliferation of Agreements and Germany had not yet ruled out linking up AEWA with CAF, so she was not yet prepared to endorse the policy side of the paper. She also felt that paragraph 22 of CMS/StC32/16, the Strategic Review of Flyways paper, did not adequately acknowledge AEWA's achievements and pointed out that contrary to the statement contained in the paper, the AEWA and CAF regions did overlap geographically. She added that Range States participants at the New Delhi meeting in June 2005 had expressed a preference for integrating the CAF Action Plan with AEWA as a legally binding instrument.

134. Cheryle Hislop (Australia) welcomed the report on flyways but could not agree the wording of the current draft with regard to the East Asian and Australasian flyway or the Pacific.

She supported the idea of a separate CMS agreement for CAF but the detail of the arrangements should be left to the Range States. CMS's interest as a partner in the East Asian and Australasian flyway was welcome, but the range states there, several of which were not CMS parties, should determine the Convention's precise role.

135. Trevor Salmon (UK) was wary about initiating further flyway instruments when wider strategic considerations had yet to be resolved. The request to "identify immediate flyway priorities where Range States and the Secretariat should focus their attention in the period 2007-8, prior to the next COP" seemed premature. In any event both the Scientific Council and COP should be consulted. The lessons learned from other flyway initiatives also had to be taken into account.

136. Bert Lenten (AEWA) responding to the comment in paragraph 22 of the paper that AEWA's successes were primarily those of process, pointed out that the criticism was equally applicable to other MEAs but AEWA was taking steps to focus more on outputs to achieve 2010 targets.

137. The Central Asian Flyway covered thirty countries, of which 16 were range states of AEWA. Cooperation between the flyways would be welcome, but competition would be detrimental. Demarcation lines for migration routes were less clearly defined for birds and cetaceans than gorillas, and AEWA covering 600 different populations of species in any case had 600 different flyways, albeit that some of them were identical.

138. The Executive Secretary agreed that policy issues had to be cleared, by the next COP. He reminded the meeting that, while the previous COP had endorsed the concept of an immediate action plan for CAF, it had not itself made any recommendations in favour of a merged CAF and AEWA Agreement. The COP had asked the Secretariat, in consultation with the lead country (India) to consider how to obtain the official views of the Range State Governments with regard to a legal and constitutional option. . There were financial considerations, as there were unlikely to be any more MOUs funded from CMS's core budget. Linking CAF with AEWA would put the financial burden on Europe, so there were arguments for other options to be considered. He heeded Australia's warning that now was not the time to press for action in the Pacific flyway and accepted that after the earlier efforts to find the right form of words to describe CMS's involvement in the East Asia and Australasian flyway, that wording should be retained exactly as agreed at the 2005 Standing Committee.

139. Cheryle Hislop (Australia) suggested that the paper be split in two (this was supported by the UK). The meeting invited the Secretariat to produce (a) a factual status report and review and (b) a separate policy and options paper for flyways. The Committee might endorse the former but reflect on the policy implications with a view to taking a decision at COP9. At the suggestion of Christiane Paulus (Germany) Parties would be invited to submit their views to the Secretariat and an electronic working group of Standing Committee members would be formed. The Executive Secretary thought that a consultant might be asked to complete paper, and Terms of Reference would be prepared.

**Action:** Secretariat to prepare the above-mentioned two-part paper for COP9's consideration.

#### **Agenda Item 9d: Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes Progress since StC31**

140. Lahcen el Kabiri (Deputy Executive Secretary) introduced Doc StC32.15 rev.2 which was a follow-up to a paper submitted at the 28<sup>th</sup> meeting of the committee in 2005 before the last COP. The first stage of the Antelope project had been agreed with France with funding from the

FFEM. The project involved 14 states and the plan listed activities for each in a number of categories. Many of the species were threatened and were declining. Actions included reintroductions into the wild and establishing baseline data. This work had identified hitherto unknown pockets with small numbers of animals.

141. As had earlier been reported, a mission led by the chairman of the Scientific Council had been sent to Niger to investigate rumours of hunting. The mission had not been able to confirm the press stories, but of the species covered by the project only one had populations able to sustain hunting. The members of the mission had had discussions with senior officials and had urged more patrols in key sites and the establishment of clear terms of reference for the issuance of hunting licences outside sensitive areas.

142. The second phase of the project was being funded by the European Commission and was being led by the IRSNB. An L2 officer had been engaged to coordinate the project, but a further partner or donor was needed to provide the €175,000 not yet raised. Its geographic focus was le Termit and the Chad-Niger border. Aerial survey work indicated the need for the designation of a protected area. Another priority was building links with local populations without whose support the project would be more difficult to accomplish.

143. Mohammad Saud Sulayem (Saudi Arabia) urged caution as many prominent people made a significant contribution to conservation and it could be very counterproductive to make general accusations. Quiet diplomacy and contacting the authorities discreetly would be preferable. Pierre Devillers (Scientific Council) said that the project was the product of concerted action by the Convention and had already had success in discovering a hitherto unknown population, in securing the designation of le Termit as a protected area and reintroducing captive stocks of Addax into the wild. The grant from the Commission was the first example of European funding for a CMS project from the budget line dedicated to UN initiatives and he hoped that the range states would progress from making declarations to formalising conservation actions through an instrument.

144. Mahamat Idriss (Chad) shared Saudi Arabia's concerns about the alleged hunting and how best to address it. He said that he was receiving constant updates on the hunting and had himself seen 30 dorcas being loaded into a plane and carcasses had been found. The problems included the difficult terrain and the split responsibilities between the ministry and the presidential office. Véronique Herrens Schmidt (France) welcomed the positive news and agreed with Saudi Arabia that care be exercised regarding the hunting problem. More donors were needed for the project to be fully implemented and she invited other countries to participate. Isaac Roberto Angeles Lazo (Peru) said the problem of hunting needed to be confronted but a tactful approach was more likely to succeed.

145. Mohammad Saud Sulayem (Saudi Arabia) asked that a factual, scientific approach be adopted. While accepting that illegal hunting had almost certainly taken place, he suggested that any statement from the Committee be worded carefully where there were references to the hunting incidents.

146. John Mshelbwala (Scientific Council) wanted to make clear the distinction between his report and any position adopted by the Committee. Mr El Kabiri (Deputy Executive Secretary) recognised that finding a form of words that did not sound accusatorial in the circumstances would be difficult and that the discussion was focussed on reports contained in CMS/StC32/Inf.3. This information document was actually established for the CMS Scientific Council held in March 2007, in Bonn by the Focal Action Point of the SSA Concerted Action. In addition, the key recommendations to address hunting problems - related to the surveillance and capacity



building - had already been implemented by the Secretariat since then. Vladimir Lenev (Russian Federation) recognised that this was a sensitive issue but a distinction should be made between diplomacy and science. It was more important to solve the problem and avoid repetition than to make accusations.

147. Véronique Herrenschmidt (France) suggested that the European Commission, Niger and Chad should be fully involved in the drafting of the report as they were the parties with the greatest interest. Trevor Salmon (UK) thought it important to clarify that illegal and/or unsustainable hunting needed to be eradicated.

148. The Chair summarised item 9.d and concluded that the Committee could agree the actions (a), (c) and (d) requested in CMS/StC32/15/Rev.2. On the hunting issue (b), the Committee agreed to form a small inter-sessional Working Group, as suggested by France, led by the Secretariat, to reword document CMS/StC32/Inf.3 using more diplomatic language.

#### **Agenda Item 9f: Adverse Human Induced Impacts on Cetaceans (Resolution 8.22, StC31)**

149. Marco Barbieri (Scientific and Technical Officer) presented a paper (Doc.32.17) summarising activities undertaken by the Secretariat in response to specific provisions of Res. 8.22 on human induced impact on cetaceans, and proposing a forward work programme to deliver Resolution 8.22 requirements by COP9. The meeting noted the paper.

#### **Agenda Item 10: COP 9 Draft Agenda**

150. A paper (Doc CMS/Stc32.19) had been circulated at the meeting. The Executive Secretary proceeded to run through the main points.

151. Regarding item 8 (Overview of Implementation), he suggested that a guest speaker be invited to give an address and asked for suggestions for a suitable person to invite. On item 16b (enhanced collaboration with FAO), the opportunity of highlighting links presented through holding the COP at FAO HQ should be used to the full. Possible themes would be avian influenza, sharks and bycatch. The key policy themes (item 17) were climate change, avian influenza, cetaceans, flyways and, for balance, terrestrial animals. It was also planned to hold the first MOP of the gorilla agreement immediately after the COP.

152. Cheryle Hislop (Australia) suggested that item 19 should be renamed to make clear that it was the future shape of the Convention and not just the Secretariat that would be discussed and that the review of the merger with ASCOBANS and an item on high priority marine migratory species should be added.

153. Mohammad Saud Sulayem (Saudi Arabia) sought confirmation that the credentials committee would meet at intervals throughout the Conference and would report periodically. The Executive Secretary confirmed that this was the case and that it would be reflected in the schedule.

154. John O'Sullivan (BLI) recalled that there had been timetabling problems at COP8 resulting in welcoming and opening addresses being curtailed which had led to some ill feeling.

155. The Chair stated that the agenda would remain open to amendment for some time and that comments would be taken on board.

### **Agenda Item 11: Dates and venue of 33<sup>rd</sup> Meeting**

156. The next meeting of the Standing Committee would immediately precede the COP. Experience suggested that it would probably need only last half a day. The likely date would be either 28<sup>th</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup> November and this would be confirmed after consultation with the hosts.

### **Agenda Item 12: Any Other Business and Closure**

157. The Secretariat confirmed that a regional meeting in Latin America before the COP would be a good idea provided that the money could be found to fund travel. The meeting could help prepare parties for the COP and progress the existing and proposed MOUs and Actions Plans in the region. Peru had offered to host the meeting.

158. Francisco Rilla confirmed that the majority of the UK's proposed amendments to the new National Report form had been accepted, as they had mostly been linguistic rather than structural.

159. Mahamat Idriss (Chad) confirmed that a meeting on Sahelo-Saharan antelopes was being considered and that Chad would take the lead among the 14 Range States. Assistance from the Secretariat would be needed and Mahamat Idriss undertook to liaise with the Deputy Executive Secretary.

160. Christiane Paulus (Germany) asked what contribution the Secretariat proposed to make to the forthcoming CBD COP in Bonn and whether any assistance regarding the organisation of the meeting could be offered. The Executive Secretary suggested that a meeting of the Biodiversity Liaison Group would be held taking advantage of the presence of the main players. There were strategic policy considerations which could be developed, such as the integration of migratory species' action plans into national biodiversity programmes. Providing staff support when the Secretariat had key posts vacant and its own COP to prepare would be difficult. Wider 2010 biodiversity targets would be on the main agenda and a number of themes would be suitable for side events.

161. After the customary expressions of gratitude to the interpreters and among the Chair, the Host Government and the Secretariat, the Chairman closed the meeting.

# ANNEXES

**32<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee***Bonn, 8-9 November 2007*

CMS/StC32/Inf.5/Rev.4

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## 32<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee

*Bonn, 8-9 November 2007*

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CMS/StC32/1/Rev.2

### PROVISIONAL AGENDA

- 1) Opening remarks and introductions
- 2) Adoption of
  - a. Rules of procedure
  - b. Election of Chair and Vice Chair as necessary
  - c. Agenda and schedule
- 3) Adoption of 31<sup>st</sup> meeting report
- 4) Secretariat's report on key inter-sessional activities since September 2006  
Including new Agreements, meetings and other activities
- 5) CMS Strategic Plan 2006-2011
  - a. Assessment of Work Plan 2006
  - b. Progress on Work Plan 2007
  - c. CMS Strategic Plan (Res 8.2 & Res 8.5): Report on progress made by Agreements
- 6) Reports from Standing Committee members and observers
  - a. Reports from Members for the 5 CMS Regions
  - b. Report from Host Country and Depositary
  - c. Report from Chair of Scientific Council
  - d. Reports from UNEP & CMS Partners
- 7) CMS & Environmental Governance
- 8) Resources
  - a. Secretariat manpower and organization: Towards the future shape of CMS
  - b. Merger of CMS Secretariat and ASCOBANS: progress
  - c. Status of CMS Trust Funds 2006-8
  - d. Fundraising
  - e. Scenarios for 2009-11
- 9) Follow-up on outstanding StC31 and CoP8 decisions
  - a. Review of ScC14 recommendations including small grant projects
  - b. National Reports Information Management System and IT issues (Res. 8.9, 8.10 & 8.24)
  - c. Article IV Agreements (Res 8.5) including future strategy
  - d. Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes progress since StC31
  - e. Flyway status report (StC31)
  - f. Adverse human induced impacts on cetaceans (Res. 8.22, StC31)
  - g. Migratory species and Avian Influenza (Res. 8.27)
- 10) CoP 9 draft agenda
- 11) Dates and venue of 33<sup>rd</sup> meeting
- 12) Any Other Business and closure

## **32<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee**

*Bonn, 8-9 November 2007*

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CMS/StC32/2/Rev.1

### **PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE**

#### **Wednesday, 7 November 2007**

All Day      Delegates arrive in Bonn

#### **Thursday, 8 November 2007\***

##### Morning

8:30      Registrations (Delegates are kindly requested to pick up their badges.)

9:00 – 12:30

1. Opening remarks and introductions
  2. Adoption of
    - a. Rules of Procedure
    - b. Election of Chair and Vice Chair as necessary
    - c. Agenda and Schedule
  3. Adoption of 31<sup>st</sup> meeting report
- Secretariat Report
4. Secretariat's report on key inter-sessional activities since September 2006 including new Agreements, meetings and other activities
  9. Follow-up on outstanding StC31 and CoP8 decisions
    - 9.g Migratory species and Avian Influenza (Res. 8.27)
  4. Secretariat's report on key inter-sessional activities since September 2006 (continued)
    - Year of the Dolphin
  5. CMS Strategic Plan 2006-2011
    - 5.a. Assessment of Work Plan 2006
    - 5.b. Progress on Work Plan 2007
  6. Reports from Standing Committee members and observers
    - 6.a Reports from Members for the 5 CMS Regions
    - 6.b Report from Host Country and Depositary
    - 6.c Report from Chair of Scientific Council
    - 6.d Reports from UNEP & CMS Partners
  7. CMS & Environmental Governance

12:30 – 15:00 Lunch break (including excursion)

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\* NB: A coffee or other break is foreseen in all morning and afternoon sessions.

### Afternoon

15:00 – 18:30 Agreements:

- 6.e Reports from CMS Agreements (including WOW)
- 5.c CMS Strategic Plan (Res. 8.2 & Res. 8.5): Report on progress made
- 9.c Article IV Agreements (Res. 8.5) including future strategy
- 8. Resources:
  - 8.b. Merger of CMS Secretariat and ASCOBANS: progress
  - 8.c Status of CMS Trust Funds 2006-8
  - 8.d Fundraising (including CMS Friends)
  - 8.a Secretariat manpower and organization: Towards the future shape of CMS

### **Friday, 9 November 2007**

#### Morning

9:30 – 12:30

- 8. Resource continued (closed session: Governments, CMS Secretariat & UNEP)
  - 8.e Scenarios 2009-11
- 9. Follow-up on outstanding StC31 and CoP8 decisions
  - 9.a. Review of ScC14 recommendations including small grant projects
  - 9.b. National Reports Information Management System and IT issues (Res. 8.9, 8.10 & 8.24)
  - 9.d. Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes progress since StC31
  - 9.e Flyway status report (StC31)

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch break

#### Afternoon

14:00 – 16:30

- 9.e Flyway status report (StC31) (continued)
- 9.f Adverse human induced impacts on cetaceans (Res. 8.22, StC31)
- 10. CoP 9 draft agenda
- 11. Dates and venue of 33rd meeting
- 12. Any Other Business and closure

# 32<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee

Bonn, 8-9 November 2007

CMS/StC32/2/Add.1

## PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE FRIDAY

### Friday, 9 November 2007

#### Morning

9:00 – 12:30

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  - 8.a Secretariat manpower and organization: Towards the future shape of CMS
  - 8.e Scenarios 2009-11
- Agreements:
  - 5.c CMS Strategic Plan (Res. 8.2 & Res. 8.5): Report on progress made
  - 9.c Article IV Agreements (Res. 8.5) including future strategy
8. Resources:
  - 6.e Reports from CMS Agreements (ASCOBANS)
  - 8.b Merger of CMS Secretariat and ASCOBANS: progress
  - 8.c Status of CMS Trust Funds 2006-8
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