

Report to the 28th Standing Committee on CMS-related activities in Western Europe

Meetings

A number of CMS-related meetings have taken place since the last Standing Committee meeting, or are due to take place this year. These include:

- The Strategic Plan Working Group was held in London, UK from 2-4 March 2005.
- The 2nd ACCOBAMS MoP was held in Majorca, Spain from 8-12 November 2004
- AEWAs held its 2nd Standing Committee meeting in Bonn, Germany from 2-3 November 2004 and will be holding its third there in July 2005
- The 12th ASCOBANS Advisory Committee was held in Brest, France, 12-14 April 2005
- Eurobats will be holding its 10th European Bat Research Symposium in Galway, Ireland between 21-26 August 2005.

Agreements and MoUs

Agreement on Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP): The first Meeting of Parties, which took place in Australia between 8-12 November 2004, was attended by Spain and the UK as Parties. France also attended in an observer capacity.

Migratory Raptors: The UK has commissioned consultants to examine the merits of a new agreement in the AEWAs region for migratory raptors. The work is progressing well and it is expected to report in June/July. Initial findings from a desk study suggest that about 30 raptors would benefit from international co-operation.

Stakeholders, such as Governments, research institutions, MEA Secretariats and NGOs are being consulted on these findings to discover whether they believe a new agreement would bring about conservation benefits. The findings will be presented to the next CoP. More information can be found at www.naturebureau.co.uk/cmsraptors/

Research

Climate Change: The UK has let a research contract looking at the links between climate change and migratory species and the reliability of forecasting models. An international workshop, which is part of this study, met in Cambridge last month and was attended by the Secretariat. It is expected that this will report in the Summer. The findings will be presented to the next CoP

Practical Conservation

- The UK is continuing with its interim programme of culling the Ruddy Duck and is awaiting a response from the European Commission on an application that has been submitted for funding to help tackle the threats from these birds. We hope that the Commission will respond in the summer.
- In the late summer of 2004, 22 young Great Bustards were re-introduced into the UK. This is part of a 10 year project, which will be reviewed annually. The project is still at a very early stage and although there have been teething problems, including a number of mortalities, lessons have been learnt which should set a good grounding for the future. More birds are expected to arrive this year and the project managers are optimistic for the future.

Strategic Panning

As mentioned above, a 2½ day workshop was held in London at the beginning of March. The UK was particularly grateful to Christoph Imboden, who facilitated the workshop, to Olivier Biber as Chair of the Strategic Plan Working Group, and to the participants, a number of whom travelled significant distances. The output of the workshop was a strategic plan for the next two triennia revised in such a way that it is set in a logical framework. This will be discussed later in the meeting.