



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK 2015-2017

(prepared by the Secretariat)

Summary

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

A Report on the status of implementation of the POW since 1 January until 1 July 2015 was submitted to the 44th Meeting of the Standing Committee (October 2015). The current report covers the period 1 January 2015 until 1 July 2016. Besides reporting on the current status of implementation this Report also indicated the challenges the Secretariat is facing with respect to some of the foreseen activities and next steps to be taken to deal with those issues.

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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK 2015-2017

(prepared by the Secretariat)

INTRODUCTION

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

2. At the 44th Meeting of the Standing Committee (Bonn, November 2015) the Secretariat reported back through UNEP/CMS/StC44/Doc 13.1 rev1 on the status of implementation of the POW 2015-2017 since 1 January to 1 July 2015. This report provides the current status of implementation of the POW from 1 January 2015 till 1 July 2016 and by doing so it has made the report a rolling document.

3. To fully implement the POW, a total amount of approximately €19.5 million (without considering full implementation of COP11 Resolutions) is estimated to be needed, while the Core Budget only amounts to €7.4 million. The POW is quite ambitious, and implementing it in full will present the Secretariat with the significant challenge of bridging the gap. The Secretariat will of course endeavour to implement the POW to the extent possible given the resources available.

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

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

5. The headings mentioned above, with the exception of operational costs, reflects the organizational structure of the Secretariat. Each Team has been requested to report back on its activities from 1 January to 1 July 2016.
6. The Report consists of two parts, these being a narrative report on the status of implementation, and the POW 2015-2017 in tabular form in an annex (Annex 1). The latter provides a brief overview of the status of implementation including some comments and remarks where applicable.
7. The POW was adopted by COP11. Since then some activities, already foreseen in the POW, e.g. implementation of Resolutions adopted by COP11 have been further elaborated and sub-divided into several activities and those that were not foreseen are indicated as new activities.
8. Although it was also the intention to include in the POW 2015-2017 activities that will be carried out by the CMS Project Office in Abu Dhabi, by the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia (IOSEA) and by the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks, there was insufficient time before COP11. However, it is intended to submit to the next meeting of the Conference of Parties a POW that will include all these activities. In the meantime, the Report submitted to the Standing Committee includes these activities. By doing so the CMS Secretariat presents a full picture of its work.
9. The amendments mentioned above to the original POW are highlighted in the document.
10. Finally having a POW allows the Secretariat to report back on all its activities under one agenda item instead of doing this at different times throughout the meeting as was done in the past. In particular, the table in Annex I gives a brief overview of the status of implementation and challenges faced by the Secretariat.

Action requested:

The Standing Committee is invited to:

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

THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POW 2015-2017

I. EXECUTIVE DIRECTION AND MANAGEMENT

Status of implementation

Activity 1¹: Executive Direction and Management

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

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

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

13. The implementation of Umoja has been a major undertaking and is still having a tremendous impact on the day-to-day work of all staff, but in particular those that are working for the Administration and Fund Management Unit (AFMU). All Staff had to follow some courses linked to the new roles assigned to them in Umoja. Before migrating the data from the old IMIS system, the AFMU had to clean them up. In May 2015 data were migrated to Umoja and now the Secretariat is in the process of double-checking to ensure that no data were lost and to divide the total amount of funds per Trust Fund into budget lines. It turned out to be extremely difficult and time-consuming for 2015 to split out all expenditures to produce a detailed overview. Since the beginning of 2016 much time has been invested in creating coding blocks which will provide a better overview of how the funds were used. Unfortunately, the Head of the AFMU left the Secretariat in 2015 to take up a new assignment at the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention Secretariat in Geneva. On 17 August 2015, his successor entered on duty.

14. The CMS Management is closely involved in the implementation of Umoja. Besides giving direct advice and guidance to staff, the CMS Management has organized meetings in 2015 to keep staff abreast of new developments on Umoja and to answer specific questions. Together with the Head of the AFMU, the CMS Management continues to provide advice on Umoja.

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

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

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

16. On a rotational basis and for the duration of one year, one of the Heads of the UN Agencies takes up the role of Chair of the UN Head of Agencies Forum in Germany. From October 2014 till October 2015 the Executive Secretary of CMS fulfilled this role. In that capacity he presided over meetings of the Forum and also represented the UN externally at different events.

17. Other Staff of CMS and/ or members of the CMS Family have also attended several international meetings to represent CMS and/ or one or more of its instruments.

Activity 4: Independent analysis of synergies in the CMS Family

18. The outcome of the independent analysis drafted by the Institute for European Studies at the University of Brussels was presented at the 44th meeting of the Standing Committee (see document: UNEP/CMS/ StC44/Doc 15.1).

Activity 5: Review of Decisions

19. COP11 adopted Resolution 11.6 'Review of Decisions' and it has been decided that this activity sits best under Executive Direction and Management. Through the Resolution the Secretariat has been instructed to prepare lists of (1) Resolutions and Recommendations that should be repealed and (2) parts of Resolutions and Recommendations that should be repealed. The Secretariat will submit this list to the 45th Meeting of the Standing Committee (UNEP/CMS/StC45/Doc 19).

Activity 6: Process to Review Implementation

20. COP11 adopted Resolutions 11.7 'Process to Review Implementation'. For similar reasons as mentioned above, it was decided to add this activity to Executive Direction and Management. In accordance with the Resolution the Secretariat drafted the terms of reference for a working group (see document UNEP/CMS/StC44/doc16.1) which was adopted by the Standing Committee at its 44th Meeting. The first meeting of this Working Group is scheduled to take place from 19-20 September 2016 in Bonn. Furthermore, it is foreseen that the Secretariat will submit a draft to the 45th Meeting of the Standing Committee (UNEP/CMS/StC45/ Doc 18).

Challenges

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

Next steps

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

Management of CMS Office in Abu Dhabi²

Status of Implementation

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

22. The Office was established in 2009 at the kind invitation of Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) on behalf of the Government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and has been generously accommodated from the outset by EAD at its headquarters. Between 2009 and the end of 2015, EAD's investment in the Office amounted to US\$ 8.9 million in core funding along with the provision of world-class office space and other practical support. In 2014, the EAD approved, in principle, a five-year (2015-2019) US\$ 10 million extension of the arrangement. EAD generously provided approximately US\$ 1.3 million from its regular operating budget to finance the first year of this extension, and continued to host the Office at its headquarters. In September 2015 EAD on behalf of the United Arab Emirates secured a new funding of approximately US\$ 8.1 million for the remaining four-year period (2016-2019). Also an amended Donor Agreement was signed in May 2016.

23. Since 2009, EAD's financial and in-kind investments on behalf of the Government of the United Arab Emirates have provided an unprecedented opportunity for CMS Office - Abu Dhabi to undertake a wide range of carefully targeted activities to support the Dugong and Raptors MOUs, and to promote migratory species conservation in the West Asian region, including promoting membership in CMS and its instruments. Major initiatives have included holding regular meetings of MOU Signatories, hosting expert group meetings, developing single and multi-species Action Plans and leveraging multilateral finance for projects in developing countries with whom the UAE shares migratory animals. The Office has actively sought opportunities to develop Emirate-level, national, regional and international partnerships, while aiming to support the CMS Family's regional and global interests particularly in the context of addressing common threats to migratory species including birds, marine mammals, turtles and sharks.

Challenges

- Although the core funding arrangements for CMS Office – Abu Dhabi have been extended until 2019, the Signatories of the Raptors MOU had accepted and established a scale of assessment for voluntary contributions. The Signatories of the Dugongs MOU may wish to follow this lead at their forthcoming March 2017 meeting. These actions would aim to complement the core funding generously provided by EAD, on behalf of the Government of the UAE and thereby broaden the funding bases for the MOUs.
- A draft Host Country Agreement (HCA) between UNEP and the Government of the United Arab Emirates defining and formalizing arrangements relating to CMS Office – Abu Dhabi including the Office's legal status and privileges and immunities had been proposed in parallel with the original Donor Agreement in 2009. The HCA has been progressed but not yet concluded.

Next steps

- Coordinate with EAD for the office budget and investigate other funding opportunities.
- Work with the Signatories of the Raptors and Dugongs MOUs to broaden the funding bases for these instruments to complement the core support generously provided by EAD, on behalf of the Government of the UAE.
- Coordinate with UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment in regards to HCA. Continue to identify and seize opportunities to promote in the West Asian Region the work of and membership in the Dugong and Raptors MOUs, CMS and CMS Family.

II. STRATEGIC PLAN

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

Status of implementation

24. A call for nominations for the regional members of the Strategic Plan Working Group (SPWG) was made by the Secretariat through Notification 2014/037 of 4 December 2014. Membership of the Working Group was communicated to Parties through Notification 2015/010 of 26 March 2015. A meeting of the SPWG took place in Bonn on 12-13 October 2015 back-to-back with StC44.

25. The meeting discussed and agreed plans towards the elaboration of the indicators for the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species (SPMS) and the Companion Volume on implementation, on the basis of a review of the work being undertaken by relevant specialist, international for a on indicators, as well as compilations programmes of work, action plans and other tools adopted under CMS and CMS Family Instruments, along with their own indicators, compiled by the Secretariat. Further information about the meeting and its documents can be found at <http://www.cms.int/en/meeting/third-meeting-strategic-plan-working-group>.

26. The outcomes of the meeting were reported by the SPWG Chair to StC44, which endorsed them. Subsequently activities were mainly devoted to producing initial drafts for consultation of the indicators for the SPMS and the Companion Volume on Implementation. Thanks to a generous contribution from the Government of Germany, a consultant to support the work on SPWG was hired by the Secretariat. With the aim of providing technical input to SPWG work on indicators, a workshop was convened in London 11-12 February 2016, at the premises of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) of the UK Government. Following the workshop, proposals for SPMS indicators were developed in the form of individual factsheets for each of the SPMS targets. The fact sheets were released for consultation with the Parties and other stakeholders through Notification 2016/008, with comments and contributions requested by 31 August 2016. The factsheets are accessible through the CMS website at <http://www.cms.int/en/document/inficator-factsheets-strategic-plan-migratory-species-first-draft-consultation>.

27. A revised version of the factsheets that will take into account the input received through the consultation process is expected to be submitted to the 4th meeting of the SPWG (SPWG-4) for review. Based on the discussion held at SPWG-3, a zero draft of the Companion Volume on Implementation was prepared by the Secretariat under the guidance of the SPWG Chair. The draft is expected to be released for consultation as an online demo as soon as it has been reviewed and cleared by the SPWG.

28. The 4th meeting of SPWG (SPWG-4) is scheduled to take place in Bonn from 7-9 November 2016 back-to-back with StC45.

Challenges

- Arrangements for the support to the SPWG by the Secretariat had to be changed at the beginning of 2015. In particular, the consultancy through which the Secretariat was providing day-to-day assistance to the working group could not be extended due to financial constraints. Responsibility to follow the work of the SPWG was assigned to the Scientific Adviser, this

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

however coming on top of other duties and responsibilities more directly related to the position. With a view inter alia to increase capacity within the Secretariat to follow and support the work of the SPWG StC44 agreed on a drawdown from the reserve. The resources earmarked for day-to-day assistance to the SPWG allowed the recruitment of external support in the form of a consultancy until the end of 2016.

- Administrative changes related to the implementation of Umoja have also made it more difficult to arrange for technical consultancy work in support of the SPWG.
- Compilation by the Secretariat to the draft Companion Volume on Implementation has proven very demanding in terms of workload and coordination, requiring significant input from a number of professional staff.

Next steps

- Producing a revised version of the factsheets on SPMS indicators.
- Releasing of the draft Companion Volume on Implementation for consultation.
- Convening of the fourth meeting of the SPWG.
- Raising funds and hiring of consultant(s) to continue providing day-to-day assistance and technical input to the work of the SPWG during 2017.

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

Status of implementation

29. This activity has been included in the POW to take into account a provision of Resolution 11.2, which requests the Secretariat to consider amendment to the format for National Reports. Changes might be needed in respect of assessing implementation of the Strategic Plan and to those indicators for which the National Reports are seen as a potentially important source of information. This activity is expected to be undertaken in parallel with the development of indicators and the Companion Volume. In discussions between the Secretariat and the Chair of SPWG, it was agreed to undertake a revision of the template for National Reports in two steps. A first proposal for revision to be used in the reporting cycle to COP12, will be submitted to StC45 for consideration and approval. The proposals will take into account inter alia progress in the development of SPMS indicators. A further proposal for revision, to be used in the reporting cycles to COP13 and subsequent COPs as appropriate, will be submitted to COP12 for consideration and approval. This proposal will take into account the final outcome of the SPWG on SPMS indicators.

Challenges

- Coordination of the revision of the template for National Reports with the schedule for development of indicators posed some challenges, notably in terms of submission of the documentation for the consideration of the StC45 and the implementation of the reporting cycle to COP12. The proposed two-step approach aims at addressing these challenges.

Next Steps

- Producing a first revision of the template for National Reports, for StC45 consideration and approval for use for the reporting cycle to COP12.
- Producing a further revision of the template for COP12 consideration and approval for use in the reporting cycles to COP13 and subsequent COPs.

III. IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT

III.1 AQUATIC SPECIES

Activity 2. Implementation of Resolutions

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

30. A joint CMS/IOTC capacity-building workshop to support the implementation of the Regional Observer Scheme of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) was organized by the IOTC Secretariat in cooperation with the CMS Secretariat and supported by both the Sharks and IOSEA Marine Turtle MOUs. It was hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries of Oman in Muscat from 18 to 22 October 2015. It provided expert training to support the creation and implementation of observer schemes in Oman, Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran with a specific focus on gillnet fisheries.

31. In April 2016, the CMS Family met for an internal workshop entitled "Exploring Synergies for Addressing Bycatch throughout the CMS Family", organized to allow the exchange of experiences with addressing what is considered the greatest threat to the marine mammals, sea turtles, fish and seabirds that our treaties and Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) were set up to conserve. Representatives of the legally-binding Agreements ACAP, ACCOBAMS, AEW and ASCOBANS, as well as colleagues servicing the MOUs on Sharks, Dugong, IOSEA Turtles, Atlantic Coast of Africa Turtles, Pacific Island Cetaceans, Western African Aquatic Mammals and Mediterranean Monk Seals, as well as the Pacific Loggerhead Turtle SSAP, explored commonalities as well as differences in terms of species of concern and their protection status, relevant fisheries and gear types, availability of mitigation measures and their uptake by fisheries management organizations. Discussions focused on the potential for synergies between the CMS Family instruments, considering topics such as the development of technical solutions, data collection protocols, mutual support and attendance at meetings of regional fisheries management organizations, sharing of resources such as guidelines and best practice mitigation fact sheets, as well as legislative approaches.

32. The Programme of Work for the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council identifies several activities for implementation before COP12, including a review of existing bycatch resolutions and the development of a draft revised resolution for COP12 that reaffirms necessary actions relevant to the conservation of migratory species.

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

33. The Resolution sets the tasks and priorities for the cetacean-related work of the Aquatic Mammals Working Group of the Scientific Council, the Council itself and the Secretariat. A key action required was the organization of the April 2014 workshop on the conservation implications of cetacean culture, which led to the development of Res. 11.23 mentioned below. COP11 appointed Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara as Councillor for Aquatic Mammals. Work based on the priorities outlined in Res. 10.15 has so far focused on four issues, which were also brought to the attention of ScC-SC1:

- The relevance to CMS of the work of the IUCN Joint SSC/WCPA Marine Mammal Protected Areas Task Force regarding the identification of Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) (see ScC-SC1/Doc.10.4.2.1)
- Developing CMS Family Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessments for Marine Noise-generating Activities (see ScC-SC1/Doc.10.2.3/Rev.1, as well as the draft resolution in front of the 8th Meeting of the Parties to ASCOBANS (MOP8/Doc.6.2.7.a) and the accompanying document (MOP8/Doc.6.2.7.b))

- Compiling information on the impact of aquatic bushmeat on CMS-listed species in three regions: West and Central Africa, South/South-east Asia and Latin America (as directed by CMS Resolution 10.15) and recommending future work on this topic for the ScC (ScC-SC1/Doc.10.2.2)
- The potential impact of dolphin swim-with programmes on CMS-listed species was also brought to the attention of the Council, and the Programme of Work includes a request to provide a briefing paper to ScC-SC2 and develop a draft resolution and guidelines in preparation for COP12.

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

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

35. In July 2016, the Secretariat provided comments to the CITES Secretariat on the listing proposals for marine species for CITES COP17. Comments focussed on the three taxa of sharks and rays which were listed on CMS Appendices at COP11 and are proposed for listing at CITES COP 17. These were also circulated to all CMS Parties as in Notification 2016/018 issued on July 29, 2016.

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

36. A questionnaire was sent to all Parties in April 2015 in order to determine the status of implementation of this Resolution. Specifically, Parties were requested to provide information on any existing national legislation prohibiting the live capture of cetaceans from the wild for commercial purposes, or any plans to develop such legislation. Furthermore, Parties were asked whether they had any national legislation that amounts to stricter measures than required under CITES Article XIV with regard to the import and international transit of live cetaceans, or had any plans to develop such legislation. Forty-five Parties provided information in response to the Secretariat's request.

37. The survey results were reported to ScC-SC1, which requested that further analysis of survey responses be performed, including on possible legal inconsistencies, and the situation in non-Parties be considered. This work is ongoing under the leadership of the CMS partner organization Whale and Dolphin Conservation (WDC).

38. Based on these questionnaire responses, and with funding provided by the Government of Monaco, the Secretariat is in the process of recruiting a consultant to develop guidelines to assist CMS Parties interested in improving existing national legislation or developing new laws prohibiting the live capture of cetaceans from the wild for commercial purposes and/or in taking stricter measures in line with CITES Article XIV with regard to the import and international transit of live cetaceans for commercial purposes that have been captured in the wild.

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

39. Following a call for nominations sent to the Scientific Council in April 2015, experts on related aspects of a range of taxa have been invited to join the expert group. Terms of Reference and a Work Plan for the expert group have been developed in consultation with the Appointed Councillor for Aquatic Mammals, and discussions are due to commence soon on the Scientific Council Workspace, where a closed discussion area has been set up. A progress report was submitted to ScC-SC1 (see ScC-SC1/Doc.10.4.1), outlining also the next steps planned and encouraging Councillors with expertise for taxa other than cetaceans to join the expert group. The PoW for the Sessional Committee foresees that a second workshop be convened, funding permitting, and that a draft resolution might be developed for COP12.

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

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

41. The Resolution stresses the importance of undertaking Environmental Impact Assessments that take full account of the effects of noise-generating activities on cetaceans and other biota; similar wording is found also in resolutions of ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS. In line with these mandates, the CMS/ASCOBANS and ACCOBAMS Secretariats have commissioned the development of CMS Family Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessments for Marine Noise-generating Activities (see ScC-SC1/Doc.10.2.3/Rev.1, as well as the draft resolution tabled at the 8th Meeting of the Parties to ASCOBANS (MOP8/Doc.6.2.7.a) and the accompanying document (MOP8/Doc.6.2.7.b)). This was possible thanks to the contribution provided by the Government of Monaco under the Migratory Species Champions Programme. The same Guidelines will be presented for adoption to the Meetings of the Parties to ASCOBANS (August 2016), ACCOBAMS (November 2016) and the Conference of the Parties to CMS (October 2017).

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

42. With funding provided by the Government of Monaco under the Migratory Species Champions Programme, the work on Sustainable Boat-based Marine Wildlife Watching (Resolution 11.29) can now be progressed through the production of dedicated guidelines for different taxonomic groups, differentiated if necessary by geographic areas. Originally, it was planned to start this exercise by focusing on producing guidelines for cetaceans and on creating a template that could be used for guidelines for other taxa at a later stage. Consultations are being conducted with organizations such as ACCOBAMS, the International Whaling Commission (IWC) that are in the process of developing and/or updating similar guidance with respect to whale watching activities, to explore synergies and join forces. Other taxonomic groups for which guidelines are to be developed as resources permit include sirenians, pinnipeds, sharks, rays, birds and turtles.

Activity 2.8: Res. 11.30 - Management of Marine Debris

43. With funding provided by the Government of Norway, the leaflet “Oceans Full of Plastic” has been translated into French, Spanish and German. The Secretariat is currently awaiting the printed versions, which are expected to be available well before StC45.

44. CMS has also contributed to the development of a Massive Open Online Course on marine litter, which was developed by the Open University in collaboration with UNEP.

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

45. The Secretariat is in consultations with the Government of Norway, discussing options for jointly convening an expert workshop on the different sub-populations of bears, and how the scientific information can be used in policy-making at a global level.

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

46. The Secretariat, in cooperation with the Sargasso Sea Commission and advice from the IUCN specialist group, is planning a workshop on the European Eel. It is scheduled to take place in Galway, Ireland, on 13-14 October, 2016, and will focus on both scientific and management issues facing the species. Experts on the American Eel will also be invited. While the Sargasso Sea Commission is the main sponsor of this activity, the Government of Monaco is contributing to cover its expenses with funding under the Migratory Species Champions Programme.

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

MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING

Activity 3: Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for Marine Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa

Status of Implementation

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

Challenges

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

Next Steps

- Continue trying to identify relevant partners in the region to assist with coordination and implementation of activities as well as source of sustainable funding.

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

Status of Implementation

48. Due to lack of relevant partners in the region to assist with coordination and implementation of activities as well as sustainable financial resources none of the activities foreseen in the POW for 2015 and 2016 could be undertaken. In light of this, the Secretariat manpower was directed towards other priorities,

Challenges

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

Next Steps

- Continue liaising with the Abidjan Convention, continue identifying relevant partners in the region to assist with coordination and implementation of activities. as well as sources of sustainable funding.

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

Status of implementation

49. The CMS Secretariat (for PIC and Dugong MOUs) was represented at the Journées Bleues Regional Conference on Ecotourism in June 2015. Continuing liaison with SPREP on the Pacific

Year of the Whale, 2016-17, and input into events scheduled at the World Conservation Congress in September 2016, showcasing the value of cetacean ecotourism in the Pacific Islands Region. Funding has been secured for the organization of the 4th Meeting of the Signatories to the PIC MOU in 2017 back-to-back with the Annual SPREP Meeting of Officials.

Challenges

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

Next Steps

- Organize the Meeting of the Signatories in 2017; continue to liaise with the SPREP species team and continue fundraising to enable technical coordination.

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

Status of implementation

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

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

Status of Implementation

51. The 1st Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC1) was held from 12 to 13 February 2016 in San José, Costa Rica back to back with a meeting of the Intersessional Working Group on 14 February 2016 and the 2nd Meeting of the Signatories (MOS2), which took place from 15-19 February 2016. The meetings were kindly hosted by the Government of Costa Rica. Significant additional funding to support the organization and travel of delegates was received from the European Union and Germany. AC1, which was attended by members from five regions and leading experts in Shark Conservation and Management, provided scientific advice to MOS2, in particular on species proposed for inclusion in Annex 1 of the MOU and priorities for conservation activities.

52. The Committee agreed to establish a Conservation Working Group under the guidance of the Advisory Committee (AC) to serve and assist the AC and complement areas where expertise within the AC is needed. Terms of Reference for it were agreed by MOS2 (CMS/Sharks/Outcome 2.8).

53. MOS2 was attended by 130 participants of 30 Signatories and Range States as well as international governmental and non-governmental organizations, including UNEP, UNDP, CITES, FAO and IUCN. Due to the significance of topics on the agenda for national and international fisheries management and conservation the meeting created high level attention, resulting in high level attendance from the President of Costa Rica and the Ministers for Fisheries and Environment also triggering high interest by internal and national media.

54. The meeting made a number of important decisions, including the inclusion of 22 additional species in Annex 1, identification of activities of highest priority within the Conservation Plan and

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

the adoption of a Programme of Work for the triennium. No final decision could be reached on the Rules of Procedure.

55. Furthermore, six additional non-governmental organizations committed themselves to support the implementation of the MOU and the Conservation plan with their signature of the MOU as Cooperating Partners.

56. A summary of the outcome of the meeting can be obtained at: [Decisions of the Meeting](#)

57. Through active outreach activities to non-Signatory Range States to become Signatories to the Memorandum, its membership is constantly increasing, with the overall number of Signatories to 41 by the time this document was finalized. Further outreach activities are planned in cooperation with NGO partners this year in regions that are not well covered yet, such as the Caribbean, the Indian Ocean and South-east Asia.

58. The Secretariat continues to establish working relationships with NGOs and other relevant bodies and entities.

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

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

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

Challenges

- The success of the MOU will be determined by its ability to find its niche within the network of regulations and initiatives, which are of relevance for the conservation of sharks and rays; this requires building a bridge between science, conservation and fisheries management. To this end, functional working relationships with relevant entities must be developed, and visibility and credibility amongst the various stakeholders must be built up.
- Many of the MOU Range States are developing or least developed countries with limited capacity to implement the MOU. Thus mobilizing resources for technical support and capacity-building to implement conservation actions remains a challenge and a major priority for the Secretariat.
- In light of the voluntary nature of Signatories’ contributions to the Trust Fund, the Secretariat has had to adopt a conservative approach vis-à-vis expenditure of Trust Fund resources. The global nature of the MOU requires comprehensive outreach activities in order to bring the membership to a higher level. At the moment, the Secretariat relies on support from

Cooperating Partners, in particular in regions with weak coverage of CMS Parties, such as Asia.

Next Steps

- Prepare the first meeting of the Conservation Working Group in 2016.
- Assist the Intersessional Working Group of Signatories with developing a communication and awareness-raising Strategy.
- Reach out to non-Signatory Range States. Continue fundraising efforts for both secretariat functions, and for implementation of activities.

Dugong MOU⁵

Status of Implementation

62. The Secretariat of the Dugong MOU forms part of CMS Office – Abu Dhabi, which is funded through the generosity of Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD), on behalf of the Government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Core funding arrangements for the Office have been extended until 2019 by the Abu Dhabi Executive Council. Major initiatives and achievements under the Dugong MOU since CMS COP11 are outlined below.

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

- ***GEF-5 Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project (GEF Project):*** Core funding provided by EAD enabled the Dugong Secretariat to dedicate significant staff time between 2010 and 2014 to develop the GEF Project which was approved in 2014. In 2015 the Dugong Secretariat coordinated the successful handover and initiation of the GEF Project including the recruitment of the Project Coordinator, as well as coordination and facilitation of expert-level support to the Project Coordination Team and national project partners. The project is being executed by the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund (MBZSC). Of the eight countries participating in the project Indonesia, Malaysia and Timor-Leste are not yet Signatories to the Dugong MOU but all have indicated their interest in signing during the implementation period of the GEF Project. The Dugong MOU Secretariat continues to support the GEF Project, providing technical advice, including through the MOU's Dugong Technical Group, and participating in key meetings. The Project website was officially launched in May 2016 and showcases global conservation efforts for dugong and seagrass ecosystems, particularly the GEF Project, and includes content developed by the Dugong Secretariat: <http://www.dugongconservation.org>.
- ***Projects:*** The Dugong MoU Secretariat provided seed funding to the Trang Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Incentives Project in Thailand to develop a Conservation Action Plan and implement priority actions. As described below, funding is being sought through the

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

German Government's International Climate Initiative for a Seagrass Ecosystem Services Project in Malaysia, Solomon Islands, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vanuatu. Funding is also being sought from other sources to support national projects in key Range States, including India and the Philippines. All of these projects will complement the GEF Project. Funds are also being sought to implement an Arabian Gulf Collaboration Project for the world's second largest population of dugongs shared by Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE. Success with these initiatives would mean that the Dugong MOU will have catalyzed conservation activities in almost one third of the dugong's range. The Secretariat, in collaboration with EAD and Total Abu Al Bukhoosh, has started developing an E-Resource Kit, a decision support tool for research and conservation of dugongs, seagrasses and impacts from human communities. Planning is also underway for an eco-tourism tool-kit to support dugong and seagrass conservation activities.

- **Fundraising:** A proposal entitled: *Improving Standardization of and Access to Seagrass Biodiversity Data for Decision Making and Conservation (US \$985,000)* developed by the Dugong MOU Secretariat, in partnership with the Marine Research Foundation, was selected as a priority project by the Eye on Earth Special Alliance and was showcased at the Eye on Earth Summit in October 2015. However, in 2016 the Dugong Secretariat was advised that the Alliance was not in a position to pursue funding for this project as originally intended. The Dugong Secretariat also recently submitted a € 4.8 million proposal to the International Climate Initiative of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety entitled *Conservation of biodiversity, seagrass ecosystems and their services – safeguarding food security and resilience in vulnerable coastal communities in a changing climate*. If successful, the project will be implemented in five dugong Range States and will seek to promote the integration of seagrass ecosystem services into decision-making and business models. The IKI will advise the outcomes of the proposal in the last quarter of 2016.
- **Technical Workshops:** Two technical workshops were held in September and October 2015. The aim of the first was to undertake initial scoping of the possible development of the E-Resource Kit (in collaboration with EAD) (Abu Dhabi). The second capitalized on the presence of some of the members of the Dugong MOU Technical Group participating in the GEF Project Inception Meeting (Colombo, Sri Lanka). It was organized in part with the financial and in-kind support of the GEF Project Coordination Team of MBZSC. Dugong Technical Group members attending had particular expertise in seagrass, incentives and conservation finance, as well as community based conservation. The Dugong MOU Secretariat also partnered with EAD and Total Abu Al Bukhoosh to hold a workshop in February 2016 in Bangkok with members of the Dugong MOU Technical Group and others to commence work on the E-Resource Kit. The E-Resource Kit will be an electronic decision-support tool that will guide users to select the most appropriate methodologies for research given a specific set of circumstances. Promoting standardized data collection that is appropriate to the individual needs of each country will help inform the management and conservation of dugongs and seagrasses. Data collected will feed into the work of the Dugong MOU and international processes such as IUCN red listing. The Toolkit is anticipated to be launched in conjunction with the Third Meeting of Signatories to the Dugong MOU (MOS3) in March 2017.
- **Third Meeting of Signatories:** Planning is underway for MOS3, scheduled to take place 14-15 March 2017 in Abu Dhabi. The Secretariat is working with EAD to organize the meeting and will provide official notification in September 2016.

Challenges

- Over 90% of the Dugong MOU Range States are developing or least developed countries with limited capacity to implement the MOU. Thus mobilizing resources for technical support and capacity-building to implement conservation actions remains a challenge and a major priority for the Dugong MOU Secretariat.
- While core funding arrangements for CMS Office – Abu Dhabi (which includes the Dugong MOU Secretariat and the Raptors MOU Coordinating Unit) have been extended until 2019 the amount received will need to be confirmed annually. Following the lead of the Raptors MOU Signatories the Dugongs MOU Signatories may wish to establish a scale of assessment for voluntary contributions, among other options, with the aim to complement the core funding generously provided by EAD, on behalf of the Government of the UAE and thereby broaden the funding base for the MOU.

Next Steps

- The Dugong MOU Secretariat will continue to provide technical advice to support implementation of the GEF Project, including coordinating inputs from the MOU's Dugong Technical Group where required.
- The Secretariat will continue to seek funds for projects to implement the DSCCI. Funds secured will be used to leverage additional money to implement further activities under the DSCCI.
- The Secretariat will work with EAD to develop the E-Resource Kit, to be launched in March 2017.
- Planning will continue for the Third Meeting of Signatories scheduled for 14-15 March 2017 in Abu Dhabi. In anticipation of a funding gap the Secretariat will seek voluntary contributions from signatories and others to ensure the widest participation and a successful meeting.
- Work closely with the MOU signatories to provide the basis for them to consider complementing the core funding generously provided by EAD with the aim of broadening the funding base for the MOU.
- Continuing to ensure that the GEF Project, as well as other projects and workshops under the DSCCI, are a success will help build a strong case for non-signatory range states to sign the Dugong MOU.

Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia (IOSEA Marine Turtles MOU)⁶

Status of implementation

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

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

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

Challenges

- Since the MOU is dependent on voluntary contributions from Signatories to cover its operational costs, the support of Signatories in implementing the MOU through the Secretariat has always been very insecure. Despite the introduction of a scale of assessed contributions, which are payable voluntarily, the insecurity remained.

Next Steps

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

ACTION PLANS

Activity 8: The Pacific Loggerhead Turtle Action Plan

65. Following the adoption of the Action Plan at COP11, a workshop was convened by the CMS Appointed Councillor for Marine Turtles with the support of the Secretariat, in the margins of the 36th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, 29 February, 2016, Lima, Peru. The meeting made some progress towards setting priority activities for implementation. The Secretariat is also liaising with the Inter-American Turtle Convention Secretariat and SPREP.

III.2 AVIAN SPECIES

Activity 11: Implementation of Resolutions

Activity 11.1: Resolution 11.14 on a Programme of Work on Migratory Birds and Flyways⁷

Status of implementation

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

67. During the reference period an Action Plan for the America's Flyways was developed under the leadership of the Scientific Councillor for Ecuador, Ana Agreda. The document was officially submitted by Ecuador to the first meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council which took place in Bonn in April 2016. The document was endorsed by the Sessional Committee. Thereafter it was circulated to the Flyways Working Group for comments. The document is currently being updated and when a new version is available it will be circulated to flyway organizations in the Americas.

Challenges

- The main challenge for this Resolution is the lack of specific funds allocated for its implementation. A meeting of the Flyways Working Group is foreseen for 2016 or early 2017, resources permitting. Discussions are under way to organize this meeting in Latin America, probably back to back with another meeting, to promote and discuss the Americas Flyways Framework and the Action Plan. . During the Ramsar COP in Uruguay in June 2015 a flyways side event was organized by WHMSI with the participation of Rob Clay, COP-appointed Scientific Councillor for birds, representing CMS.
- In February 2015 a Notification was issued in coordination with CBD in support of the Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative (AMBI) of the Arctic Council's Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna Working Group (CAFF), with the objective of improving the conservation status throughout their life cycle of migratory birds that breed in the Arctic.

Next steps

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

- The Secretariat is planning to approach Brazil as a potential donor for the meetings of the Flyways Working Group and Americas Flyways. Coordination between the Secretariat, the two COP appointed Scientific Councillors for birds, Rob Clay and Stephen Garnett, and the Chair of the Flyways Working Group, Taej Mundkur will continue as usual and Skype conferences will be held regularly.

Activity 11.2: Resolution 11.15 on Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds

Status of implementation

68. The Resolution adopted comprehensive guidelines to prevent poisoning of migratory birds, covering pesticides, rodenticides, poison bait, veterinary drugs and lead. A joint CMS, AEWA and Raptors MOU workshop on bird poisoning in the Southern African region took place on 24 August 2015 in South Africa, back to back with the AEWA pre-MOP6 meeting. This workshop was made possible thanks to the financial contribution of the European Union through the ENRTP Strategic Cooperation Agreement with UNEP under the project "*Effective Implementation of CMS, AEWA and other CMS Family instruments across various regions and languages through capacity building*". The output of the meeting will be a Sub-regional Implementation Plan to Prevent Poisoning of Migratory Birds in Southern African countries. This document is currently being finalized pending some contributions from several countries in the Region.

69. The Secretariat has participated in the elaboration of an Action Plan to prevent risks from use of poison baits in the EU, which has been developed by the European Network against Environmental Crime (ENEC). The purpose of this Action Plan is to set guidelines on behalf of the ENEC for the adoption of measures to eradicate the use of poison baits in the countryside. These recommendations will contribute to implementing the CMS Guidelines on bird poisoning, including recommendations at EU level to ensure a consistent and effective deterrent to poison bait use in the EU.

Challenges

- The main challenge of this Resolution is the lack of financial resources to organize a meeting of the working group or to hire a Coordinator.

Next steps

- The Secretariat is in contact with SEO/BirdLife (the BirdLife partner in Spain) and with the region of Castilla-La Mancha in Spain with a view to having a meeting of the working group in Toledo in late 2016. Final confirmation of this meeting is still pending.

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

Status of implementation

70. The Resolution recognizes illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds as a global problem, but focusses on the Mediterranean as a region where these activities are especially acute and need a proactive approach. To this end, the Resolution foresees the establishment of an Intergovernmental Task Force to address illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds in the Mediterranean, including government representatives of all CMS Parties in the region and stakeholders such as BirdLife International, IUCN and the Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the EU (FACE).

71. A concept note has been developed by the Secretariat and a consultative group has been established to guide the work of the Task Force. Letters have been sent to Mediterranean Parties and stakeholders requesting the nomination of focal points for the Task Force. Thanks to the support pledged by the European Union, it has been possible to appoint a Coordinator and organize the first meeting of members. The Coordinator, Carmen Naves Muñoz, entered on duty in January 2016 and is based at the CMS Secretariat in Bonn. The first meeting of the Task Force took place in Cairo 12-15 July 2016, at the kind invitation of the Government of Egypt.

Challenges

- The main challenge of this project is to engage the governments of the Mediterranean countries in the work of the Task Force, and to reverse the very strong tradition of bird trapping in some Mediterranean countries. Funding from the EU is secure until 2018, thereafter additional funds will be necessary for the second phase of this project.

Next steps

- The work of the Mediterranean Task Force will serve as a pilot case on how to tackle the problem of illegal killing of birds. In the future, similar task forces could be established in other problem areas, e.g. the Middle East or the Caribbean region.

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

Status of implementation

72. A teleconference of the Action Plan's Steering Group was organized on 12 June 2015 to provide advice on future steps with regard to this Resolution. Thanks to the funds pledged by Switzerland, it was possible to organize a meeting of the Landbirds Working Group in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire) 25-27 November 2015. The meeting benefitted from the logistical support provided by the UNEP Sub-Regional Office for West Africa based in Abidjan. In 2016 it is planned to organize a workshop focussing on land use change in West Africa and how this is affecting migratory landbirds. This meeting will take place in November 2016 in Abuja (Nigeria) thanks to a voluntary contribution provided by Switzerland. It is being organized in close cooperation with the government of Nigeria and BirdLife International.

Next steps

- A new Resolution on African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds will be submitted to COP 12 including the recommendations of the West Africa land use workshop.

MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING

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

Status of Implementation

73. From 20 to 21 May 2015, the Third Meeting of Signatories (MOS) to the Aquatic Warbler MOU took place in the Nemunas Delta Regional Park at the kind invitation of the Government of Lithuania. Eight signatories were present at the meeting together with NGOs and experts. The meeting was co-organized by the CMS Secretariat and the Lithuanian organization, the Baltic Environmental Forum under the framework of the EU LIFE+ project "Securing sustainable farming

to ensure conservation of globally threatened bird species in agrarian landscapes” The MOS took place back to back with the international seminar “Achievements, Success Stories and Lessons Learned of the Aquatic Warbler Conservation” (19-20 May 2015) that was the stock-taking and final meeting for this EU LIFE project. The MOS was entirely funded by the LIFE project and there was no cost to CMS.

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

75. The next MOS is foreseen for 2020 or earlier. This will be a very important meeting because the Aquatic Warbler Action Plan will be revised in depth and a new version will be elaborated. The coordination mechanism with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) will be assessed. On the positive side, the advantage of the Aquatic Warbler MOU is that it has a very active and committed constituency that is always ready to help and keep the activities going. The Aquatic Warbler Conservation Team should be mentioned in particular as a group of experts that acts as a think tank providing very useful scientific advice and facilitating surveys, projects and research activities that are extremely important for the MOU. This Conservation Team is, de facto, the advisory body of the Aquatic Warbler MOU.

Challenges

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

Next steps

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

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

Status of Implementation

76. The fourth Meeting of Signatories is foreseen to take place in 2018 in the State of Brandenburg, Germany.

77. On the 17-18 November 2016 there will be a scientific meeting in Illmitz (Austria) organized under the auspices of an EU Life project.

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

Status of Implementation

78. Contacts are continuing with Argentina and Chile with a view to putting together a project proposal for research and conservation of Ruddy-headed Goose.

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

Status of implementation

79. This species has not been observed in recent years and subsequently no activities have taken place under the framework of the MOU.

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

Status of implementation

80. In June 2015 the Secretariat participated in a workshop to develop a Conservation Strategy for the Eastern Flyway of the Siberian Crane between the Russian Federation and China. The meeting took place in Liaoning Province in China and was sponsored by the International Crane Foundation (ICF) and the Disney Conservation Fund.

81. The proceedings of the 2015 benefit concert that took place in Bonn in celebration of World Migratory Bird Day were transferred to ICF to translate a booklet on Siberian Crane into several Central Asian languages. The total amount raised was €2,210.

82. The webpage sibeflyway.org which was maintained by the International Crane Foundation has now been integrated into the MOU space in the CMS web.

Challenges

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

Next Steps

- To fundraise for the continuation of the coordination through ICF.

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

Status of implementation

83. The First Meeting of Signatories of the Andean Flamingos MOU took place in the city of Cuzco (Peru) 26-28 April 2016. The main outcome of the meeting was the adoption of an Action Plan for the implementation of the MOU, and a coordination mechanism. The Grupo Conservación Flamencos Altoandinos signed the MOU as a coordinating partner. The meeting was very effectively hosted by the Servicio Forestal y de Fauna Silvestre of Peru (SERFOR) and generously funded by the EU through TAIEF (Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Facility).

Challenges

- The main challenge for this MOU is now to implement the Action Plan and find financial resources to carry out the coordinated surveys and other conservation measures.

Next Steps

- Peru will coordinate the MOU until 2018 and thereafter Bolivia will undertake this role until 2020.

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

Status of implementation

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

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

Status of Implementation

85. The Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MOU forms part of CMS Office – Abu Dhabi, which is funded through the generosity of Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi, on behalf of the Government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Core funding arrangements for the Office have been extended until 2019 by the Abu Dhabi Executive Council. Major initiatives and achievements since CMS COP11 include:

- **Second Meeting of Signatories (MOS2)** – Due to considerable support received from the Government of Norway, MOS2 was held from 5-8 October 2015 at Trondheim, Norway. Germany and the Netherlands also provided very welcome additional financial sponsorship for several additional delegates to attend MOS2. A webpage established in February 2015 was later supplemented with an online pre-registration process for participants. Formal invitations were issued in early June 2015 to all 52 Signatories and 3 Cooperating Partners, as well as to the 80 non-Signatory Range States who were welcome to attend as observers. Over 60 delegates from 23 Signatory States, five non-Signatory Range States and 11 stakeholder organizations participated in MOS2. Key activities included reviewing the species of African-Eurasian migratory birds of prey listed in Annex 1 of the Raptors MOU, including considering updates to taxonomy and nomenclature to keep pace with current understanding. Adopting comprehensive proposals put forward by the interim Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to the Raptors MOU, 18 new species were added based on emerging evidence of movement patterns consistent with the definition of ‘migratory species’ in the Raptors MOU; two species were also added and three removed following recent taxonomic changes. In addition, Signatories at MOS2 took note of the TAG proposals to amend Table 3 of the Action Plan (Provisional list of Important Bird Areas that are currently known to be important congregatory bird of prey sites in Africa and Eurasia) and further noted that the proposed amended list of sites could be used by Signatories to prepare national or regional strategies or equivalent documents. Signatories also took decisions relating to: the further review by TAG of the proposed amended list of internationally important sites for migratory birds of prey (Table 3 of Annex 3 of the Action Plan to the Raptors MOU); instructing the Coordinating Unit to circulate the revised proposed amended list of sites to Signatories for comment at least 150 days prior to the MOS to allow adequate consultation

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

and feedback in anticipation of their consideration by MOS3 for adoption; Range States included in the geographical range of the MOU (Annex 2); Rules of Procedure for MOSs; development of National/Regional Raptor Conservation Strategies; establishment of the TAG; endorsement of the CMS Strategic Plan for Migratory Species and resolving to take action to raise awareness and to promote its implementation; and, the acceptance and establishment of a scale of assessment for voluntary contributions from Signatories. Signatories also agreed that the Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MOU would facilitate and oversee the development of a Multi-species Action Plan to conserve African-Eurasian Vultures (Vulture MsAP) – an initiative based on CMS Resolution 11.14 (Programme of Work on Migratory Birds and Flyways) to address rapid declines of this group of birds, often now referred to as the African Vulture Crisis.

- **Multi-species Action to conserve African-Eurasian Vultures (Vulture MsAP)** – Following consultation with the IUCN SSC Vulture Specialist Group, BirdLife International and other specialists, the Coordinating Unit of the CMS Raptors MOU drafted a Project Charter for the development of the Vulture MsAP. The overall aim is to develop a comprehensive strategic Action Plan covering the whole geographic ranges of 15 species of Old World vultures to promote concerted, collaborative and coordinated international conservation actions. An initial assessment suggested that 124 Range States host populations of one or more of these vulture species and therefore should be included within the geographic coverage of the Vulture MsAP. In February 2016, the Project Charter was circulated, in English and French, to all the Range States, partners and interested parties, calling for nominations for a Vulture Working Group and for funding support. Over 50 nominations were received for the Vulture Working Group; and Switzerland generously stepped forward to offer funding support to complement core funding from the Coordinating Unit to develop the Vulture MsAP during 2016 and 2017. Planning is now well underway and the Coordinating Unit is poised to let Small Scale Funding Agreements (SSFAs) to BirdLife International and the Vulture Conservation Foundation to lead Regional and Overarching Coordination of the development of the Vulture MsAP. Three Regional Workshops (Africa, Asia, Europe) are scheduled to be held in late 2016 to ensure engagement by Range States and other stakeholders in the development of the Vulture MsAP. The final version of the action plan is anticipated by mid-2017, in time for submission to CMS COP12.
- **Technical Advisory Group (TAG)** – The Second Meeting of TAG was held in March 2015 in Abu Dhabi. Good progress was made and a consultation paper was issued to Signatories in July 2015, outlining recommendations for changes to the species (Annex 1) and sites (Table 3) listed in the text of the MOU, for consideration at MOS2. Nominations were received from Signatories in April 2015 for the TAG that was then established at MOS2 to operate intersessionally thereafter. Since MOS2, international online teleconferences have been held with the TAG members, to review and refine the TAG Work Plan 2016-2018 endorsed by Signatories. The Coordinating Unit is planning to let a modest contract with BirdLife International to provide certain technical support to assist TAG in addressing a number of key tasks within the TAG Work Plan 2016-18.
- **Saker Falcon Task Force** – CMS Resolution 11.18 - Saker Falcon Global Action Plan (SakerGAP) was adopted at COP11. The first flagship implementation project taken forward was the creation and development of an online information portal to engage stakeholders within a Saker Falcon Network. This multilingual portal aims to build trust and raise awareness by linking falconers, trappers, falcon hospitals, conservationist and researchers within a network to exchange information that enables estimation of sustainable harvest levels for Saker Falcon populations, and also to encourage best practice. The portal will also facilitate a comprehensive data collection and management system to monitor trade in the Saker Falcon. The majority of

the funding for the project was contributed by the International Association for Falconry and the Conservation of Birds of Prey (IAF), a Co-operating Partner to the Raptors MOU, supplemented by funds from the core budget of the Coordinating Unit. A project Steering Group meeting was hosted by the Coordinating Unit in Abu Dhabi in March 2015, back to back with the second meeting of the TAG, and the Saker Online Portal was launched on 20 April 2015. Recruitment of a consultant Coordinator to drive forward the implementation of the whole SakerGAP was launched in the first quarter of 2016, but has been delayed again due to funding constraints.

- **Egyptian Vulture Flyway Action Plan (FAP) for the Balkans and Central Asia** – Jointly organized by the Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds (BirdLife Bulgaria) and the Coordinating Unit, an international Action Planning Workshop was held in Sofia, Bulgaria from 5 to 8 July 2015. Over 70 participants from more than 30 countries attended and worked collaboratively to develop and refine a draft FAP. In advance of the meeting, the Coordinating Unit commissioned a study carried out by the Vulture Conservation Foundation to evaluate the implementation of the existing EU Action Plan for the species, which was published in 2008. The results were presented at the Workshop to ensure that knowledge, experience and lessons learned were incorporated into the forthcoming FAP. The Coordinating Unit has actively contributed to the draft FAP and a public consultation exercise is planned in advance of developing the final version, due to be published in September 2016. The Egyptian Vulture FAP will be incorporated as a component of the Vulture MsAP.
- **Cinereous Vulture Flyway Action Plan** – The Vulture Conservation Foundation (VCF) has secured EU Life+ funding to review the existing EU Species Action Plan for the Cinereous Vulture. The Coordinating Unit is poised to sign a Small Scale Funding Agreement with VCF to exploit potential synergies by expanding this review into the development of a Flyway Action Plan for the species. Moreover, the Cinereous Vulture Flyway Action Plan will be incorporated as a component of the Vulture MsAP.
- **International Single Species Action Plan (ISSAP) for the Sooty Falcon** – There is a pressing need to gather more accurate and comprehensive information on the Sooty Falcon (*Falco concolor*), particularly concerning its global population status and the main threats causing its decline. In April 2015, a first draft of a Sooty Falcon ISSAP was circulated to members of the Sooty Falcon Working Group, previously established by the Coordinating Unit. An Action Planning Workshop to develop the ISSAP is now scheduled to be held in 2017, subject to additional resources being received by the Coordinating Unit.
- **World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD)** – Last year, on 11 May 2015, the Environment Department of the Dubai Municipality hosted a one-day WMBD Seminar at the Falcon Heritage Center, Dubai, UAE. The theme for the 2015 campaign was ‘*Energy – make it bird-friendly*’. Lyle Glowka, Executive Coordinator of CMS Office – Abu Dhabi, and Nick P. Williams, Head of the Coordinating Unit, both made presentations at this national event. This year, Dubai Municipality hosted a WMBD event at the same venue on 10 May 2016, with the theme being ‘*Stop the Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds*’. Lyle Glowka and Nick P. Williams attended and participated actively in an associated workshop ‘*Applying Systems-thinking to Tackle Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds*’.
- **African Raptor DataBank (ARDB)** – This is an ambitious, citizen science non-profit project that already holds more than 100,000 records of birds of prey seen in Africa. It aims to inspire birdwatchers, researchers and members of the public to submit observations and information that will reveal the conservation status of raptors and their habitats throughout Africa. Much of the continent is not yet served by reliable internet or cellphone connections so there is a need

for mobile devices such as smartphones and tablets to capture data offline. A previous project sponsored by the Coordinating Unit developed a state-of-the-art offline Android App for the ARDB. Collaboration between Habitat INFO, The Peregrine Fund and the Coordinating Unit should see a similar offline App launched for Apple IOS devices by the end of August 2016.

- **New Signatories** – Ten countries have signed the Raptors MOU since November 2014: Czech Republic and Switzerland (5 November 2014), Syrian Arab Republic (22 December 2014), Lebanon (28 December 2014), Iran (10 March 2015) Spain (4 May 2015) Comoros (6 October 2015), Croatia (11 November 2015), Israel (11 November 2015) and India (7 March 2016).

Challenges

- While core funding arrangements for CMS Office – Abu Dhabi (which includes the Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MoU and the Dugong MoU Secretariat) have been extended until 2019 the amount received will need to be confirmed annually.
- Developing the Vulture MsAP is a huge challenge, not least because of the need to engage with over 120 Range States, the very tight timeline and the fact that not all the resources required have been pledged so far. If additional funds are not forthcoming in the next few months, the planned development process for the Vulture MsAP will need to be scaled back accordingly.
- The Saker Falcon Task Force identified the need for a Coordinator to be selected and commissioned to oversee the implementation of the SakerGAP. The Coordinating Unit has so far been unable to attract a specific donor to fund the position, which is viewed as critical to ensuring the successful implementation of the SakerGAP.
- Mobilizing resources to organize the proposed Action Planning Workshop for the Sooty Falcon, planned to be held in Madagascar in 2017, also remains a challenge.

Next Steps

- Issue invoices to Signatories for voluntary contributions as agreed at MOS2.
- Fundraising efforts will continue with the aim of securing the additional funds needed to develop the Vulture MsAP, to recruit a Coordinator to oversee implementation of the SakerGAP and to enable the hosting of an Action Planning Workshop to develop the ISSAP for the Sooty Falcon.
- The Coordinating Unit will continue to actively engage with wider CMS-led initiatives relating to prevention poisoning of migratory birds, illegal killing, taking and trade in migratory birds (IKB), including the IKB Task Force for the Mediterranean region, and the Energy Task Force.

ACTION PLANS

New activity⁹: Baer's Pochard Action Plan

86. An International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of Baer's Pochard has been prepared by the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust. The Action Plan was subsequently adopted by the East Asian Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) in January 2015. The document was discussed at the meeting of the Scientific Council's Sessional Committee in April 2016, and will be submitted to COP 12 for adoption. Resolution 11.14 on a Programme of Work on Migratory Birds and Flyways recommends the elaboration of an Action Plan for this species, which lives only in Asia and is considered Critically Endangered by IUCN.

New activity: Far-Eastern Curlew Action Plan

87. An Action Plan for this species was recommended by Resolution 11.14 on a Programme of Work on Migratory Birds and Flyways. A Task Force has been established under the East Asian Australasian Flyway Partnership with the aim of developing an Action Plan under EAAFP. The Action Plan is in a very advanced stage of development and will be submitted to the 9th Meeting of Partners of the EAAFP in Singapore in January 2017. Thereafter, it will be submitted to COP12 in October 2017 in the Philippines. In May 2015 Australia published conservation advice and included this species in the Critically Endangered category at national level. The species is considered as Vulnerable by IUCN. The Government of Australia has pledged a voluntary contribution to the CMS Secretariat for the implementation of the Action Plan.

New Activity: Yellow-breasted Bunting Action Plan

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

New Activity: Asian Great Bustard

Status of implementation

89. Following the inclusion of this subspecies of the Great Bustard in Appendix I at COP11 it is foreseen to organize a scientific symposium in Mongolia in April 2017 to update the species' conservation status in its Asian range. During this meeting, the existing Action Plan for the Asian populations will also be updated.

III.3 TERRESTRIAL SPECIES

Activity 20: Implementation of Resolutions

Activity 20.1: Resolution 11.13 on Concerted and Cooperative Actions

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

91. Across the ecological corridor between Ethiopia, South Sudan and linked to Kenya and Uganda it has been possible to map the movements of satellite-collared White-eared Kob, elephants

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

and Nile lechwe in collaboration with the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA) and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) thanks to financial support from Norway. This is improving the demarcation of Gambella National Park and other aspects of spatial conservation planning in this key migration corridor rivalling the Serengeti in ecological richness. Although a workshop was scheduled to strengthen Ethiopian and South Sudanese transboundary collaboration across the corridor it has proved impossible to hold it so far due to the current political situation.

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

93. The Secretariat is currently looking into the possibility to submit a proposal to COP12 for an African Carnivore Initiative, or a wider African Initiative, which would include African terrestrial species e.g. African Wild Dogs, Cheetahs, Lions and Elephants.

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

94. COP11 adopted the CAMI through Resolution 11.24 following a long stakeholder dialogue and assessment survey in 2014 and several regional meetings, including from 23-25 September 2014 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan to discuss and finalize the CAMI Programme of Work. The CAMI Programme of Work is annexed to the Resolution and provides the roadmap for action on 15 target mammal species in 14 Range States, namely Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Details of the high priority activities and minimum cost implications for the current triennium are outlined in the POW table, which is part of this report.

95. The CAMI website was launched in 2016. A Russian translation of the website is in progress. The first CAMI newsletter was sent out to stakeholders in 2016, following two information letters in 2015.

96. The CMS Secretariat has sent out an open call for the nomination of the Species Focal Points (SFP) covered by the CAMI. Suitable experts have a proven track record in research and conservation activities for CAMI species. The Secretariat identified 13 out of 15 foreseen SFP in 2015 and 2016, the last two experts identified in August 2016 during the CAMI expert workshop. The experts are already active and consult the Secretariat and Parties, when the need arises. Terms of Reference for the SFP were defined during the CAMI expert workshop, which took place 22-26 August 2016, on the Isle of Vilm, Germany.

97. The CAMI framework encompasses all CMS instruments and policy tools targeting large mammals in the wider Central Asian Region. This includes the Guidelines on Mitigating the Impact of Linear Infrastructure and Related Disturbance on Mammals in Central Asia (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.3.2) adopted at COP11 through Resolution 11.24. CMS Parties in the region have now been given the task of transposing these into national legislation.

98. The workshop on “Implementing wildlife-friendly measures in infrastructure planning and design in Mongolia” took place from 24 to 28 August 2015 in Ulaanbaatar, with the Ministry of Environment, Green Development and Tourism of Mongolia, the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety of Germany, the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation of Germany (BfN), GIZ and CMS as co-organizers. The main outcome of

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

the workshop was the Ulaanbaatar Action Plan on wildlife-friendly infrastructure. The Action Plan further aims to strengthen implementation of the CMS Guidelines for Addressing the Impact of Linear Infrastructure on Large Migratory Mammals in Central Asia and the "National wildlife crossing standards". For Mongolia 'National wildlife crossing standards' are in place for the development of new infrastructure work.

99. In July 2016 CMS participated in an expert discussion on the implementation of the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Programme (GSLEP), organized by Naturschutzbund Deutschland (NABU). CMS brought the synergies between CAMI POW and GSLEP to the attention of the participants. It was agreed that CMS could take on a more active role in implementing GSLEP by facilitating trans-boundary conservation activities for the Snow Leopard, its prey (argali) and its habitat. GSLEP in turn would take note of CMS instruments for these species and promote their use in implementing the programme. CAMI POW and Argali Action Plan were presented and the latter was distributed to interested participants.

100. Additionally, CMS has raised awareness of the problems of large mammal conservation in Central Asia by: 1) participating in a mining industry conference Minex Central Asia in April 2016, represented by ACBK, Kazakhstan's largest nature conservation NGO; 2) by presenting CAMI at the the BfN-organized workshop on Nature Conservation in Eastern Europe Caucasus and Central Asia in February 2016; 3) issuing one joint press release on saiga antelopes and issuing four website articles featuring meetings attended and one peer-reviewed publication "The rise of border security fences forces reconsideration of wildlife conservation strategies in Eurasia" and promoting these in social media.

101. The CAMI expert retreat with the participation of the identified SFPs, scientists and experts organized by CMS and BfN took place during August 22-26 on the Isle of Vilm. The aim of the meeting was to identify current action needs to implement the CAMI POW and the possibilities of raising funds for these actions. Among key outcomes are: 1) two project concepts for which some funding is available through the support of the Swiss Government; 2) input for the development of the EU strategy for Central Asia; 3) project ideas to implement CAMI POW and 4) resolving procedural issues, such as the identification of the terms of reference for the SFP. These outputs should benefit the conservation of several species under CAMI.

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

Status of implementation

102. COP11 adopted the Argali Action Plan and the final document was printed in English and Russian languages in 2015 with the kind support from the German Federal Government and the European Union, through the Regional Programme on Sustainable Use of Natural Resources in Central Asia of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ).

103. The 11 Argali Range States were requested to appoint Focal Points in February 2015. Nine nominations have been received to date, the remainder is still pending. In 2015 the CMS approach to wildlife management and conservation in Central Asia was presented at the international conference "Regional practices on sustainable use in hunting territories and protection of wildlife", which took place in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan from 1 to 3 September 2015. It concluded the EU FLERMONECA project. The conference gathered together national researchers and practitioners from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, as well as a number of international experts, to examine the principles of and share experience on sustainable wildlife management in Central Asia.

104. CMS is planning to participate in and to assist with the organization of the round table on sustainable wildlife management in Tajikistan (organized by GIZ) in November 2016. The meeting will address sustainable use practices for the Argali and other species and aims to strengthen capacity for the implementation of CITES and CMS.

105. Due to limited human resources and funding at the Secretariat it was not possible to organize a meeting of the Range States in 2016.

Challenges for CAMI, including Argali SSAP

- Lack of financial and staff resources to implement Argali SSAP activities;
- Limited staff time for CAMI activities
- To identify regional and national partners who can take a lead in the implementation of the Argali SSAP on the ground;
- To ensure regular exchange of knowledge and information among CAMI Range States and local scientists;
- To strengthen regional network of the Argali and other species experts for CAMI;
- To support capacity-building of various governmental and non-governmental institutions involved in the sustainable wildlife management in the region.
- To facilitate trans-boundary species conservation activities, including monitoring, research, law enforcement and land use management
- To reduce the language barrier by translating key publications and the CAMI website into Russian (limited resources available)

Next Steps

- To organize a CAMI Workshop to combat poaching
- Consider raising more funds for CAMI implementation and coordination
- To liaise with GSLEP to improve trans-boundary cooperation on snow leopards
- All Range States to designate national Argali Focal Points;
- To organize the kick-start meeting for argali experts and practitioners (tentatively postponed to 2017, back-to-back with a foreseen CAMI meeting).

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

106. A Review of IUCN Regional Lion Conservation Strategies was produced by WildCru on behalf of the CMS Secretariat and shared for comments with African Lion Range States. In light of the proposal to uplist *Panthera leo* from CITES Appendix II to Appendix I and given that the species is one of the identified shares species between CITES and CMS, the CMS Secretariat cooperated with the CITES Secretariat to further implement CMS Resolution 11.32. A Joint CMS-CITES African Lion Range State meeting was convened in Entebbe, Uganda hosted by the Government of Uganda 30-31 May 2016. Twenty-eight of the 32 African Lion Range States participated in the meeting, reviewed the Report prepared by WildCru, established that the main threat for African Lion has not changed and considered the adequacy of current listing of species under CITES as well as the benefits of listing the species under CMS. A Communiqué was adopted identifying the most urgent conservation measures and suggesting the benefits of listing *Panthera leo* under CMS Appendix II. Draft decisions were adopted by the Parties to CITES at the CITES pre-COP meeting for Africa, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia 8-12 August 2016, for submission to CITES COP17. Identifying further conservation actions to be implemented jointly between CITES and CMS.

MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING

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

Status of implementation

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

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

109. In May 2015, during the species' calving season, more than 200,000 Saiga antelopes suddenly died within two weeks in the Betpak-dala population in central Kazakhstan. It is likely that total mortality figures represent about 60% of the global population. One of the Cooperating Organizations of the MOU, ACBK, was present on the ground monitoring the die-off from the start in mid-May. The Ministry of Agriculture of Kazakhstan requested the CMS Secretariat to dispatch an emergency mission with wildlife health experts on 20 May 2015 to assist with sampling and investigating the causes of the mass die-off. Within one day the mission was set up, with Richard Kock from the Royal Veterinary College in the UK and Sergei Khomenko from FAO being sent to Kazakhstan. A large number of organizations, experts and private donors have lent support since then to address this catastrophic decline.

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

111. In 2016, CMS Secretariat received an update on the status of the investigation of the incident from the international expert team. Researchers were able to narrow down the list of possible triggers of the opportunistic infection by excluding chemical intoxication and focusing more on climate-related factors, soil and vegetation conditions. According to the data obtained during the census of the populations in Kazakhstan in spring 2016, Saiga numbers showed some modest signs of recovery. However, poaching remains a serious threat to the remaining animals. Funds are urgently needed to support ongoing investigations, anti-poaching activities and to rebuild what used to be the largest and healthiest Saiga population globally.

112. After MOS 3, CMS has supported the implementation of the Saiga MOU MTIWP through a number of activities. For example, the website for the Saiga MOU was launched. Through German voluntary contributions, CMS provided financial support for: 1) the coordination of the MOU by the SCA, 2) creation and the maintenance of the Saiga Resource Centre website and 3) continuing research of the die-off event of 2015 as well as 4) small-scale conservation activities. The last two

points were part of one small-scale funding agreement, according to which SCA will finalize and translate a sampling protocol to support governmental laboratories in collecting samples after possible mass die off events in the future. In addition, SCA will use part of the funds to support conservation activities, within their small-scale grant programme.

113. There was major progress in the implementation of the recommendations “Saiga Crossing Options” in 2016. To reduce the negative impact of the Kazakh-Uzbek border fence on the migration of the Ustjurt population of saiga, CMS together with Frankfurt Zoological Society and Fauna and Flora International dispatched an expert in 2013 to analyze the situation and to identify possible mitigation measures. As a result, the report “saiga crossing options” was produced with recommendations on how to modify the existing fence to make it more permeable for saiga. In 2016, ACBK and the state enterprise "Ohotzoprom" inspected the fence together with the border service of the Kazakh National Security Committee and reported that the border service had successfully completed all respective modifications.

Challenges

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

Next steps

- To raise funds for MOU coordination and the Saiga Resource Centre in a joint effort with CITES
- Parties to continue implementing MTIWP, in particular to combat poaching and illegal trade and to address the cause of saiga die-off events
- Seek more active cooperation with consumer countries on implementing the Medium-Term International Work Programme for the Saiga Antelope, identifying priority actions for the period 2016-2020.

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

Status of implementation

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

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

approval of the relevant governmental institutions. The key focus of the Plan is to increase population numbers, in close collaboration with Afghanistan and Uzbekistan.

116. The MOU benefits from the adoption of the Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI) through Resolution 11.24 and the presence of a dedicated CAMI Coordinator at the CMS Secretariat, who assists Signatories with the implementation of the wide range of CMS mandates. Activity 2.5 under the adopted CAMI Programme of Work attached to the Resolution lists Bukhara Deer activities as high priority, notably the development of National Action Plans by all Signatories, the updating of the national report format and the need for regular meetings of Signatories.

Challenges

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

Next Steps

- To organize the Meeting of Signatories of the Bukhara deer MOU and update the Medium-Term International Work Programme (postponed tentatively to 2017 or 2018).

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

Status of implementation

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

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

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

120. The CMS Secretariat endorsed a project proposal for the mobilisation of an anti-ivory poaching Ranger force in the Gourma region of Mali submitted by the Mali Elephant Project to the African Elephant Fund. The project has not yet been accepted by the AEF Steering Committee.

121. With the African Elephant Action Plan (AEAP) being accepted as the primary tool for the conservation of African Elephants and the establishment of the African Elephant Fund to implement the Plan, CMS Parties and Signatories to the Western African Elephant MOU may wish to consider adoption of the AEAP as their planning tool and implementing the Plan rather than engaging in further meeting cycles to update the Medium-Term International Work Programme under the CMS Western African Elephant MOU.

Challenges

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

Next steps

- Consultations with Parties to CMS and Signatories to the MOU as well as the AEF Steering Committee on the possibility of the CMS COP endorsing the AEAP as a planning tool for elephants under CMS.
- Fundraising assistance for projects contributing to the implementation of the MOU;

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

Status of implementation

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

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

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

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

126. A document on ex-situ conservation has been prepared by a Technical Committee, as foreseen by the Bi-national Plan. In Argentina the 5th Meeting of the Management Committee of the National

Plan for Huemul was conducted during the reporting period. Government staff from different levels of jurisdiction involved in the conservation of Huemul were trained through workshops and other capacity-building means. Awareness-raising and education were improved in schools and a number of communities, benefiting from printed information materials and an updated website.

127. In 2016, surveys of the Chilean Huemul populations were carried out in the protected areas of Biobio, Los Lagos, Aysen and Magallanes using both traditional surveys as well as camera traps. In the Aysen region, some specimens were recorded with swellings in different parts of the body. Tissue samples were then taken by CONAF and SAG, and analysis confirmed presence of *Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis*, the bacterium that produces *Lymphadenitis caseosa*, a disease normally found in sheep.

Challenges

- Chilean populations infected with disease normally present in domestic livestock; No action at this time, but conservation measures might be required at a later date.

Next Steps

- Continue soliciting updates from the field re: the *Lymphadenitis caseosa* situation; Take measures if deemed necessary
- Strengthen implementation of the Binational Action Plan, for example through the expansion of existing protected areas, continued capacity-building and education/outreach activities, strengthened monitoring and data management, including spatial mapping with inclusion of alien species and other threats

Activity 25: Action Plan for the conservation and restoration of the Sahelo-Saharan antelopes

Status of implementation

128. The CMS Action Plan on Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes has been updated under the chairmanship of the IUCN Antelope Specialist Group thanks to financial support from the US Fish & Wildlife Service's Conservation Enhancement Fund. It consists of two parts: status reports on the target species and population-specific actions adopted by the range states. The actions of the old Action Plan were last adopted by the 14 Range States in 1998, the species status reports were updated in 2006. The 15th Meeting of the Sahelo-Saharan Interest Group (29 April–1 May 2015, Abu Dhabi, UAE) reviewed the structure of the updated document and recommended to add the Barbary Sheep (*Ammotragus lervia*; Appendix II) to the Action Plan as requested by Algeria and Tunisia and to further add the Red-fronted Gazelle (*Eudorcas rufifrons*), which was added to CMS Appendix I by COP11. The draft updated Action Plan is currently undergoing technical review.

Challenges

- Lack of financial resources to implement Action Plan activities, as well as to hold a Meeting of Range States;
- Challenging security situation in large parts of the Sahara and Sahel making wildlife management and anti-poaching operations more difficult;
- Oil and gas development threatens critical habitats in Niger ;
- Recent decline of the Addax due to disturbance and poaching issues has put the species on the brink of extinction;

Next Steps

- Reintroduction of Scimitar-horned Oryx into Chad was originally planned to take place in autumn 2015 thanks to strong long-term collaboration of multiple partners, Range States and donors. Actually 25 Oryx were released into a holding area at the Ouadi Rimé-Ouadi Achim Game Reserve on March 16, 2016, by the Environment Agency—Abu Dhabi (EAD) and the government of Chad’s Scimitar-horned Oryx Reintroduction Program, in partnership with the Sahara Conservation Fund (SCF). The actual release into the wild is expected in the fall of 2016. Thereafter more releases are expected to occur, until the population reaches about 200-300.
- Meeting of Range States in 2016/2017, funding permitting; Postponed due to lack of financial resources and political instability in the region.
- Meeting of Addax Range States to be held as soon as possible, tentatively under the umbrella of CMS, IUCN Antelope Specialist Group and IUCN Reintroduction Specialist Group, to address the rapid decline of Addax population in 2016.

Activity 26: Action to Conserve the African Wild Ass

129. At the request of the German Government, CMS started work to address the conservation of this highly endangered species. Work began with a kick-off meeting on 9 June 2016 in Bonn between CMS, the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) of Germany, and NGO partners.

Challenges

- Difficult political climate in the region

Next Steps

- A Range State meeting planned in early 2017 in Germany to draft an International Species Action Plan with concrete activities to be implemented in short, medium and long-term

III.4 SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY SERVICES

Activity 28: Implementation of Resolutions

Activity 28.1: Res. 11.25 Ecological Networks¹¹

Status of Implementation

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

131. A specific activity foreseen by Resolution 11.1 provides for stimulating the implementation of the Resolution on Ecological Networks particularly in Africa by programme planning in 2015 and a kick-start meeting in 2016. In this regard, the Secretariat developed a project concept, which foresees as a first step the production of an assessment on the status of key migration corridors for large mammals in Africa, with a view to identifying those factors limiting conservation success and ultimately to identifying priorities for conservation action (species, habitats). The analysis would also aim at deepening the existing knowledge of current efforts, and understanding where and how CMS can provide an added value as legal framework. In order to ensure high validation of the assessment as well as ownership of stakeholders, data collection and preparation will be done in a participatory

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

and consultative process. A review phase is foreseen to give all stakeholders (e.g. IUCN SSGs, NGOs) the opportunity to further improve and comment on the assessment, which is expected to be concluded by an expert workshop to review and finalize the document, identify priority activities for pilot projects, and recommend coordination arrangements to ensure sustainable implementation. Active fundraising has been undertaken in order to secure resources to implement the activities mentioned above. At the time of writing, some positive replies have been received from potential donors, but funding has not been secured yet.

132. Amongst the CMS Family instruments, there have been numerous activities to better understand the movements of CMS-listed species, primarily through satellite collaring, for example in Ethiopia and South Sudan on White-eared Kob, in Kazakhstan on Saiga antelopes and for raptors through the African Raptor Data Bank (ARDB), a citizen science non-profit project that already holds more than 100,000 records of birds of prey seen in Africa.

133. A technical workshop on migratory connectivity was convened from 28 to 30 September 2015 in the Veneto region of Italy thanks to the organization and fundraising by the Chair of the Scientific Council in close cooperation with the Veneto Po Delta Regional Park and UNESCO. Progress on this initiative is reported in more detail under the activity *facilitating the Work of the Scientific Council*.

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

135. The Secretariat provided inputs to the Strategy document “*Larger than elephants, inputs for an EU strategic approach to wildlife conservation in Africa*” developed by the Directorate General of Development and Cooperation (DG DevCo) of the European Commission, supporting relevant strategic elements such as the use and promotion of Key Landscapes for Conservation (KLC), Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCA) and individual sites of outstanding conservation value, and advocating the consideration of the connectivity dimension of critical sites, corridors, community-managed lands, the wider fabric of the landscape they sit within, and the ecological processes that bind them together. Together with CITES and UNODC, CMS was chosen as lead implementing partner in a multi-million EU project for the Southern African Development Community (SADC), Eastern African Community (EAC) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) regions. CMS' role will be to identify and establish Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs) in close cooperation with these three Regional Economic Communities and the countries concerned. As part of this activity, CMS will also be able to identify key migratory corridors for CMS-listed species, thus contributing to the implementation of CMS Resolution 11.25. Details are being negotiated with the EU and partners over the coming months. Funding received from the Government of Switzerland to initiate the implementation of CMS Resolution 11.25 through the convening of an expert workshop on the identification of key migratory corridors have therefore, in consultation with the Swiss Government, been reallocated to the implementation of CMS Resolution 11.7 on *Enhancing the Effectiveness of the Convention through a Process to Review Implementation*.

Challenges

- At the time of writing, prospects to raise funds to at least start the planned activities in Africa are good, but funding has not been confirmed yet.

Next steps

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

Activity 28.2: Res. 11.27 Renewable Energy

Status of implementation

136. Resolution 11.27 instructs the Secretariat to convene a multi-stakeholder Task Force on Reconciling Selected Energy Sector Developments with Migratory Species Conservation (the Energy Task Force). As initial steps towards the establishment of the Task Force (TF), the Secretariat, in consultation with stakeholders, has worked towards the definition of elements of a Work Programme for the TF for the triennium 2015-2017, as well as activities for a Coordinator to facilitate the implementation of the Work Programme. Thanks to a generous voluntary contribution from the Government of Germany, resources have been secured for the coordination and basic functioning of the TF for the triennium 2015-2017. Arrangements for the recruitment of the Coordinator and support to the functioning of the TF have been established with BirdLife International. With a view to obtaining advice on prospective members of the TF, the Secretariat has established a small advisory group composed of representatives of the AEWAs Secretariat, the CMS Scientific Council and AEWAs Technical Committee, the German Federal Environment Ministry and BirdLife International. Based on the advice from the group, invitations to prospected members of the TF were sent out in July 2016. At the time of writing, replies are being received and a meeting of the TF is being planned.

Challenges

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

Next steps

- It is expected to have the TF established and operational in the third quarter of 2016, with an initial meeting to be convened in the last quarter of 2016.

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

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

Activity 29: Facilitating the Work of the Scientific Council

Status of implementation

138. Main efforts have been towards the implementation of provisions of Resolution 11.4, in particular the development of Terms of Reference for the Scientific Council (ScC) and the establishment and operationalisation of the Sessional Committee. Terms of Reference for the Scientific Council were approved by StC44 on the basis of a draft prepared by the Secretariat. StC44 also defined the membership of the Sessional Committee for the triennium 2015-2017 and gave guidance to the Secretariat on the definition of a process to select the members of the Sessional Committee as of COP12. A first meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council was convened in Bonn from 18 to 21 April 2016.

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

Challenges

- The fact that the Sessional Committee could only be appointed towards the end of 2015 has delayed the planning of activities of the ScC for the triennium 2015-2017. However, the current triennium constitutes a transitional phase to the new form of operation of the Scientific Council foreseen by Resolution 11.4, and the new organizational setting and procedures are expected to become fully operational as of COP12.

Next steps

- Secretariat to assist the Scientific Council in the revision of its Rules of Procedure.
- 2nd meeting of the Sessional Committee to be convened in the run up to COP12, most likely in July 2017.

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

Status of implementation

140. The Secretariat has liaised with various organizations that could provide input to this initiative, including UNEP-WCMC, IUCN Species Survival Commission, BirdLife International. A scoping workshop, aimed at identifying options and developing Terms of Reference is in the planning stage, and resources to convene it have been secured thanks to a generous voluntary contribution from the Government of Switzerland. The possibility of linking this report to the assessment of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species is also being explored.

Challenges

- Financial resources for the production of the report have still to be secured. The Secretariat is aiming at producing a project concept, in consultation with potential partners, providing for costed alternative options for the report, to be used for further fundraising efforts. Potential partners will be encouraged to participate also in fundraising efforts.

Next steps

- Convene the above-mentioned scoping workshop.
- Continue fundraising efforts to raise resources for the production of the Report.

Activity 31: Coordinating Implementation of the Small Grant Programme**Status of implementation**

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

Challenges

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

Next steps

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

Activity 32: Development of Atlas on Animal Migration**Status of implementation**

142. This is an ambitious initiative, which if it will take off is expected to be continued also in future triennia. For the current triennium, the POW foresees to start with migratory birds in the African Eurasian region. The Secretariat has liaised with the Chair of the ScC and other stakeholders with a view to building support for the initiative, and develop terms of reference (ToR) and a detailed project concept. A concept on the development of an atlas on bird migration using as a basis the Euring Databank was presented at the 1st meeting of the Sessional Committee of ScC, which endorsed it.

Challenges

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

Next steps

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

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

Status of implementation

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

Challenges

- Efforts to secure resources for the convening of the meeting of the Working Group on Climate Change have been only partly successful so far. €8,000 has kindly been pledged by the Government of Germany, this alone is however insufficient and matching funds are being sought. While the convening of a physical meeting of the Working Group remains the preferred option to develop a work plan for the triennium and initiate action, alternatives are being explored.

Next steps

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

IV RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND INTERAGENCY AFFAIRS

Status of Implementation

144. Significant progress has been made both on raising funding for the implementation of priority activities for the triennium and on strengthening collaboration with MEAs and with IGOs and Civil Society. Details are included in the separate reports being UNEP/CMS/StC45/Doc.10.3 “Resource Mobilization” and UNEP/CMS/StC45/Doc.21 “Synergies and Partnerships”.

Challenges

- Unfortunately, no progress has been made to strengthen the regional presence of CMS in Africa, the Pacific and Latin America. The establishment of regional coordinators in these three regions was included in the list of funding priorities sent to all Parties in April 2015 and February 2016. No funding has been obtained to date.

Next Steps

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

V INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH

Status of implementation

Joint Communications Team

145. As a pilot project to examine the feasibility of greater collaborative work and synergies within the CMS Family, the Common Information Management, Communication and Awareness-raising (IMCA) Team was established in January 2014. It serves both the CMS and AEWA Secretariat and continues to operate under the day-to-day leadership of the AEWA Communications Officer. The other members of staff of the Joint Unit are the CMS Senior Information Assistant, a part-time CMS Communication Assistant, Secretary, a part-time AEWA Information Assistant, two consultants and a varying number of interns.

Communications Strategy

146. As a first step towards implementing a more strategic approach to communicate within the CMS, as foreseen in the current POW, the CMS and AEWA Secretariats embarked on a project to develop strategically aligned communications strategies for CMS and AEWA. A Consultant was engaged to develop the communication strategies using voluntary contributions received from Germany. Workshops to support the development of the communication strategy and communication action plans around specific topics will be convened if and when resources allow. The new AEWA Communication Strategy was adopted by AEWA Parties at MOP 6 in November 2015 through AEWA Resolution 6.10 (UNEP/AEWA/MOP6/Res. 6.10).

CMS Family Common Branding

147. A project to develop common branding for the CMS Family will commence when resources become available. It is one of the main strategic communication projects foreseen in the POW closely linked to the development and implementation of the communication strategy.

Main Achievements & Tasks Undertaken

148. The IMCA Team oversaw this year's successful World Migratory Bird Day, and contributions were made to a number of key CMS Family events and meetings (Sharks MOS, AEWA MOP, MIKT) as well as several other relevant international days, such as World Environment Day, World Wildlife Day, International Day of Biodiversity, World Fish Migration Day and World Wetlands Day. A number of op-eds (opposite the editorial articles) have been prepared and were published in various media, some of which published the article in up to ten languages. Press releases were prepared and distributed in collaboration with UNEP, interviews arranged for several meetings and events, an event which triggered unprecedented global media interest, in this reporting period was the mass mortality of Saiga Antelopes in Kazakhstan, an event which media continue to report on along with other CAMI-related topics.

Meetings (AEWA MOP, Sharks MOS, MIKT)

149. In 2015 and 2016, a strong focus of the Unit was to support communication efforts around AEWA MOP6 which took place in November 2015. Bird-related topics starting with the listing of vulture species at the Second Meeting of the Signatories to the Raptors MOU in 2015 continue to garner strong media interest along with the International Task Force on Illegal Killing of Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT). Also efforts focused on wildlife crime and on promoting the outcome of the Second Meeting of the Signatories to the Sharks MOU, which took place in Costa Rica in February 2016.

AEWA MOP6

150. For the first time in AEWA's history, a dedicated web-based newsroom was created to provide an overview of articles on topics pertaining to the AEWA MOP6. Every day of the meeting news stories, press information and expert videos including a message by UNEP's Executive Director, populated the special webpage and generated considerable web traffic. The series "People behind AEWA" initiated along with the 20th Anniversary of AEWA was also a well-received featured, which was implemented in close cooperation with the wider AEWA Secretariat team and the various AEWA personalities being profiled online. It emphasized the important network of people behind AEWA, who helped form the Agreement and remains a great online record of important contribution of these outstanding individuals to the achievements of the Agreement.

151. On the occasion of MOP6, in cooperation with the City of Bonn, a series of large printed banners were produced featuring AEWA Flagship Species. The banners were a prominent visual branding element along the main street leading from the subway station to the venue of AEWA MOP6 at the UN Bonn Premises. They were received extremely positively by the delegates and the wider public.

152. A social media pack in English and French containing key messages and appealing images was distributed through the UN Social Media Group, which triggered considerable engagement by UNEP, other UN entities and the wider community of MEAs. Tweets could be followed in a separate column on the dedicated AEWA MOP6 Newsroom webpage.

153. At the venue, the CITES-initiated road exhibition "Wild and Precious" which had already been displayed at COP11 was extended to include further AEWA species for AEWA MOP6.

Sharks MOS2

154. Overall 100 articles were published on Sharks MOS2. UNEP News Centre, United Nations Regional Information Centre and several news wires (All Africa, dpa, EFE, EFE verde, Fox News Latino), internationally renowned media outlets such as The Guardian and El País as well as different stakeholders such as conservation groups and fishing industries reported on the meeting. Media coverage included important fishing nations and non-Parties such as Japan. Due to the presence of the Costa Rican President, national TV stations covered Sharks MOS2. Media in six regions reported on Sharks MOS2 in English, French, Spanish, Chinese, German and Italian.

155. An op-ed on shark conservation was published by twelve media outlets across the globe.

UNEA2, May 2016

156. The CMS Family and BirdLife International joined forces at the Second Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) and organized a side event to promote their work aiming at ensuring that renewable energy installations are deployed in ways that have no adverse impact on

migratory species such as birds and bats. The event informed about the establishment of the the International Multi-Stakeholder Energy Task Force under the CMS Family.

157. In addition, “Healthy vultures, healthy people” was the title of a side event on vultures convened by BirdLife International in the margins of UNEA. Together with the UNEP Regional Office Africa, IUCN and several NGOs, CMS contributed to highlight the importance of vulture conservation to the delivery of the three pillars of sustainable development. The IMCA Team provided substantial input to both events by promoting the events before and during the events through the website and social media channels in terms of content preparation.

Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT)

158. About 30 articles have been published on the first meeting of the MIKT held in Cairo in July 2016. UNEP News Centre, important international media such as Deutsche Welle and Al-Ahram as well as news wires (All Africa) reported on the event. Media coverage included countries where migratory birds are especially affected by illegal activities both Parties and non-Parties. Articles were published in three regions and four languages: English, Arabic, German and Italian.

159. In the run-up to many of these meetings, staff of the joint unit were involved in setting up dedicated web-pages, and preparing, proofreading and posting documents on the CMS and AEWA websites. The consultant editor served as report writer at the AEWA MOP, the 44th meeting of the CMS Standing Committee, the Meetings of the Signatories to the Raptors MOU (Trondheim, Norway, 2015) and to the Sharks MOU (San José, Costa Rica, 2016) and at the first Meeting of the MIKT.

Global Campaign: World Migratory Bird Day 2016

160. In the run up to 10 May 2016, the CMS and AEWA Secretariats through the collective efforts of the IMCA Team, reached out to dedicated organizations, governments and people all over the world to participate in World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) and to register events on the Website. In 2016, under the theme “... and when the skies fall silent? Stop the illegal killing, taking and trade!” more than 300 events were registered in 85 countries. For the fourth consecutive year, the operatic choir Lirica San Rocco from Bologna, Italy gave a benefit concert in Bonn, Germany

161. 2016 also marked the 10th anniversary of WMBD. Since 2006, more than 2,300 events have been registered in 139 different countries and territories worldwide.

162. As was the case last year, a newsroom embedded in the WMBD website displayed stories related to the 2016 theme and provided an insight on events scheduled around the globe.

163. The AEWA Plan of Action for Africa foresees the provision of seed funding to support the annual celebration of WMBD in Africa. Thanks to a voluntary contribution from the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) provided through the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat, a number of African Contracting Parties received support for the organization of national and transboundary events for the 2016 WMBD celebration. The events have been organized with the help of the BirdLife Africa Partnership Secretariat.

164. WMBD 2016 was also a record breaking campaign when it comes to social media and web outreach. A strategy using both Facebook and Twitter has generated a far greater impact than previous years' campaigns. It helped generate more than 58 million tweet impressions and reached more than 18 million users. Even though less than Twitter, Facebook also helped with awareness-raising with

more than 210,000 users reached. Furthermore, the official WMBD website has received more than 55,000 page views from 181 countries.

165. Amongst highlights of this year, one can single out a massive UN official website and social media account involvement in the campaign with three specifically WMBD-related tweets to their over 7 million followers and 10 per cent of the overall WMBD website traffic being driven by a featured article on un.org. Most of the elements used by UN or UNEP websites and social media were produced by the Joint Communication team. In addition, WMBD also generated a great amount of media interest around the world.

Websites, Online Tools, Video Productions and Social Media

166. The CMS Family websites, an umbrella for 24 individual websites of separate CMS instruments, six online technical/ scientific workspaces, and two online meeting registration tools continue to be maintained with available in-house capacity. The CMS Family websites have so far served more than 200,000 visitors and recorded over 1 million page views since January 2015.

167. The joint Unit is also participating in the steering committee of several international Information and Communication Technology (ICT) related initiatives and projects, for example the MEA Information and Knowledge Management Initiative (IKM) which is responsible for InformMea portal and an EU-funded project to further enhance the Online Reporting System (ORS) for MEAs being led by UNEP-WCMC.

168. The IMCA Team manages a total of 11 social media platforms, actively engaging the general public and partners on important issues that CMS or AEWA have on their agenda. Multimedia contents and concise infographics have contributed to a high degree of post reach and post engagement. The CMS social media platforms have for instance recorded an audience growth of 24 per cent since early 2015.

169. In-house produced video statement and other audio-visual material and interviews of international experts, National Focal Points and CMS Scientific Councilors are being published regularly on CMS, AEWA and WMBD websites and social media channels.

Regular News Production (Website and E-Newsletter)

170. Twice a week typically, news articles featuring CMS Family activities, accessions, topics or species of interest to the Convention are being published. Together with other media featured on the Media Watch page, over 500 news items were made available online. Press releases are being distributed to inform relevant media outlets on conservation success, species news, outcomes of CMS meetings and policy implementation, Op-eds raise awareness on controversial topics and help gain political acceptance before important meetings. The news pages are supported by appealing visual and audio-visual materials including photos and videos and are being actively promoted through a dedicated CMS E-Newsletter and via the Convention's social media channels. The Joint Unit has contributed to the design, editing and drafting of a number of in-house publications, including several new fact sheets and technical publications.

Challenges

- Ensuring that mutually agreed implementation arrangements are in place and are being followed for the Joint CMS –AEWA Communication and Information Management Unit;
- Securing the voluntary funding to be able to 1) organise World Migratory Bird Day in 2017, 2) carry out a professional branding project for the CMS Family and 3) develop a Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) Programme for the CMS Family.

- Securing the funding required to ensure the basic technical maintenance and further development of the CMS Family Website and other online tools being managed by the IMCA Team.

Next Steps

- Continue to improve the management and operation of the joint Communications Unit.
- Continue work on development and implementation of the Communication Strategies.
- Continue to further develop and improve the CMS Family Website and other online tools such as the Online National Reporting System (improve usability).
- Secure voluntary funding to conduct the World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) campaign in 2017, to carry out a professional branding for CMS Family and to develop a Communication, Education and Public Awareness Programme.

VI CAPACITY-BUILDING

Activity 1: Capacity-Building

Status of implementation

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

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

173. NBSAPs are seen as the lead tool in an ecosystem approach to both biodiversity and conservation management. The integration into NBSAPs can often be seen as not only important for the conservation of migratory species but for the overall national biodiversity and sustainability. Additionally, NBSAPs are encouraged to address direct threats, such as climate change, pollution, illegal killing and invasive species, which can often have a more pronounced effect on migratory species. One of the priorities for the Secretariat is to contribute to, and where appropriate, participate in the NBSAP process. At the same time during Capacity-Building Workshop participants are called upon to do the same and are informed about the CMS Guidelines on how to integrate migratory species into NBSAPs.

Activity 2: Regional Meetings

174. Regions that were previously not strongly represented at negotiation meetings will be fortified by thoroughly preparing them for COP12 and encouraging regional alliances. This has proved in the

past to have a significantly positive effect on active COP participation by those regions. This ought to be maintained and amplified in the future. The Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) project sponsored by the European Commission is supporting this capacity-building activity for the regions of Africa, Latin America and the Pacific.

175. Two regional Capacity-Building workshops were held during the period reported:

- First regional Capacity-Building Workshop for non-Parties of South and South-east Asia-CMS as a Tool for Conservation of Biodiversity Brentwood Suites Hotel, Quezon City, Philippines 27 – 29 October 2015. The region of South and South-east Asia has relatively few CMS Parties, which makes it hard to implement the Convention effectively, especially when it comes to regional issues. The Philippines is a long-standing CMS Party and offered to host this workshop, joining with the CMS Secretariat, UNEP and the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) to inform non-Parties about the Convention and ultimately to encourage them to join. The workshop was one of a series of workshops planned around the world aiming to boost accession to the Convention. The workshop structure mostly followed the manual on the roles and responsibilities of the CMS Family National Focal Points (NFPs), referred to as the “CMS Family Manual”
- CMS Capacity-building Workshop for non-Member States of Latin America to accede to the Convention. The CMS Secretariat, together with the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), organized for the first time a training workshop for Spanish-speaking Latin American non-Parties, in Panama City, Panama from 22 to 24 September 2015. The Workshop was an opportunity to strengthen the presence of the CMS and support the ratification process in this region. The occasion was also useful to present to the National Focal Points training tools recently produced by the CMS Secretariat such as the CMS Family Manual or the CMS Family Guide.

176. Both workshops had been kindly sponsored by the European Commission through the Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) Programme Cooperation Agreements with UNEP.

Programmed activities

177. CMS Secretariat and the Caribbean Community Secretariat (CARICOM) organized the First Regional Capacity Building Workshop for CMS non-Parties of the Caribbean Region, from 31 August - 2 September 2016 in Bridgetown, Barbados.

Activity 3: Recruitment of new Parties

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

179. With the accession of the Republic of Iraq (1 August 2016) CMS has 124 Parties

Challenges

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

Next Steps

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

VII SERVICING OF GOVERNING BODIES AND OTHER MEETINGS

180. During the second half of 2013 the Conference Service Team (CST) was established. By pooling the secretaries together that used to work at that time for e.g. the Agreement Officer, the Scientific Advisor and the Inter-Agency Liaison Officer a new Team was created. This reorganization has led to a change in how the Secretariat manages its work in respect to making the necessary arrangements for meetings, a core task of the Secretariat. Besides being part of the CST, each member is also focal point for one of the Species Teams or the Scientific Advisor. In that capacity, they act as Secretary to that Team. The current Team is very small and consists of one full-time Conference Service Assistant, four part-time Team Assistants and one part-time Report Writer/ Proof-reader of English. The CST works very closely with the AFMU e.g. in respect to contracting out some services and travel arrangements for funded delegates. Ideally a Conference Service Officer should head this Team but this post does not exist currently and for the time being, the Deputy Executive Secretary is Acting Head. With the limited human resources within the CST, good planning and organization are essential to ensure that the Team can deliver the services that are expected.

Activity 1: The 12th Meeting of Conference of Parties

181. Early 2015 contact was made with, the Government of the Philippines, the Host of COP12. The Secretariat is regularly in contact with the Host and Members of the Committee responsible for organizing COP12. An official visit of the Deputy Executive Secretary to Manila took place in October 2015 during which he met the authorities and visited the proposed venue at that time. Early 2016 the Government of the Philippines invited him to attend a meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum on Maritime Security and in addition to meet some representative of the Government as well as to visit another possible venue for COP12. During that visit it was decided to opt for the Philippines International Convention Centre as the venue for COP12.

Activity 2: The Standing Committee

182. Since COP11 the Executive Secretary has had regular contact with the Chair of the StC to keep him abreast of important developments. As usual all Staff have been involved to varying degrees in drafting of the substantive documents for StC44 and StC45. The Conference Service Team has taken care of the logistical arrangements for both meetings and of document production.

Activity 3: Scientific Council

183. At regular intervals the Scientific Advisor, as well as the Executive Secretary, have been in contact with the Chair of the Scientific Council. A meeting of the new Scientific Council Sessional Committee took place in April 2016.

Activity 4: Servicing and organizing other CMS meeting

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

New activity: CMS Family Retreat

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

Challenges

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

Next Steps

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

I. EXECUTIVE DIRECTION AND MANAGEMENT

	Activities	Priority ranking	2015 and 2016					Stat us	Accomplishments	Notes
			Total estimate ¹²	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
					Needed ¹³	Obtained	Source			
1	Providing overall management of the Secretariat, including regular Management meetings	Core						Improved planning and organization of work	Further improvements are needed and is a priority for the Management.	
2	Supervising the administrative and financial management of the Secretariat	Core						Move from IMIS to Umoja	Implementation of familiarization with the new Administrative system 'Umoja' has and is still taken up a lot of Staff time.	
3	Representing CMS and/or CMS Family; raising awareness, visibility, etc.	Core						CMS has been represented at several external as well internal (UN/ UNEP) meetings.	An overview of meetings attended can be found in the first part of this Report.	
4	Independent analysis of synergies in the CMS family	Core	50,000	50,000				Based on the Report (UNEP/CMS/StC44/15.1,the StC took a decision as laid down in Annex 2 to Report of the 44 th of the StC (UNEP/CMS/StC45/Doc.4.1)		
5	Res. 11.6 Review of Decisions · Review of Resolutions and Recommendations and development of proposal on which ones should be repealed	High						Work ongoing. Proposal will be submitted to the 45th Meeting of the Standing Committee		
6	Res. 11.7 Process to Review Implementation · Establish and support a dedicated intersessional Working Group to explore possibilities for strengthening implementation of the Convention through the development of a review process	High				50,000	Switzerland	Terms of Reference for a Working Group (WG) were submitted to and approved by the 44th meeting of the Standing Committee. WG is being established. First meeting of the WG took place on 19-20 September 2016, Bonn Germany		
	Total		50,000	50,000		50,000				

...Additional activities from COP Resolutions and decisions

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

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

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

¹² It should be noted that based on the best available information the Secretariat has estimated the costs when the POW 2015-17 was drafted. At the time of implementing one of the activities the actual costs might be higher, lower or similar to the estimated costs.

¹³ No additional funds are needed if this is not indicated in this column.

II. STRATEGIC PLAN

No	Activities	Priority ranking	2015 and 2016					Status	Accomplishments	Notes
			Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
					Needed	Obtained	Source			
1	Strategic Plan Working Group	High	60,000	30,000		50,000	Germany	SPWG established; 1 meeting of SPWG convened in 2015	SPWG meeting hold back-to-back to StC44	
2	Further development of the Strategic Plan (Indicators, Companion Volume)	High	50,000			0 covered by contribution above	covered by contribution above	Some resources to progress the development of the Indicators and companion volume through consultancies have been secured. Terms of Reference are being developed in consultation with the SPWG with a view to tendering the assignment.	This activity is expected to cover the entire triennium.	
3	Consider amendments to the format for National Reports in respect of assessing implementation of the Strategic Plan and indicators	High	10,000			covered by contribution above	covered by contribution above	A first proposal for revision to be used in the reporting cycle to COP12 will be submitted to StC45 for approval. .	A further proposal for revision, to be used in the reporting cycles to COP13 and subsequent COPs as appropriate, will be submitted to COP12 for consideration and approval. This proposal will take into account the final outcome of the SPWG on SPMS indicators.	
Total			120,000	30,000		50,000				


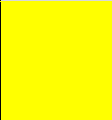

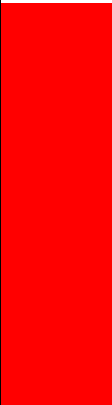
III.1 IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT – AQUATIC TEAM

No.	Activities	Priority ranking	2015 and 2016				Status	Accomplishments	Notes	
			Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
					Needed	Obtained				Source
2	Implementation of Resolutions									
2.1	<p>Res. 10.14 - By-catch of CMS listed Species in Gillnet fisheries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review existing measures and identify non-lethal options to mitigate shark attacks Workshop on mitigating measures for CMS species including turtles and sharks CMS Family By-catch workshop 	<p>Medium</p> <p>High</p>	<p>50,000</p> <p>15,000</p>		<p>50,000</p>	<p>10,000</p> <p>Monaco</p>	<p>A joint CMS/ IOTC capacity-building workshop to support the implementation of the Regional Observers Scheme of the Indian Ocean Tune Commission (IOTC) took place from 18-20 October 2015 and was hosted by Oman..The workshop was supported by IOSEA and Sharks MOU.n.</p> <p>In April 2016 the CMS Family met for an internal Workshop entitled ' Exploring Synergies for Addressing Bycatch throughout the CMS Family'</p>			
2.2	<p>Res. 10.15 - Global Programme of Work for Cetaceans</p> <p>Publication of review of CMS cetaceans in the Red Sea</p>	High				<p>5,000</p> <p>Monaco</p>	<p>Work planning with Appointed Councilor for Aquatic Mammals and Aquatic Mammals WG members underway</p>			
2.3	<p>Res.11.20 - Conservation of Sharks and Rays</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sharks and Rays (Identify the needs of training and capacity development) Sharks and Rays (Build capacity to improve the implementation of these species) 	<p>High</p> <p>High</p>	<p>250,000</p> <p>100,000</p>		<p>250,000</p> <p>100,000</p>		<p>Shark ID guide developed for NW Indian Ocean .</p> <p>Capacity Building Workshop on the reporting of sharks and rays caught in IOTC fisheries cooperatively organised with the IOTC Secretariat in Oman.</p>			

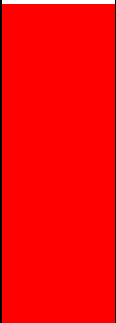
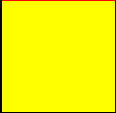
III.1 IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT – AQUATIC TEAM

No.	Activities	Priority ranking	2015 and 2016					Status	Accomplishments	Notes
			Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
					Needed	Obtained	Source			
2.4	<p>Res. 11.22 - Live Captures of Cetaceans from the Wild for Commercial Purposes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of status of legislation 	High	15,000		0	5,000	Monaco	Review underway; 37 national responses to questionnaire on national legislation received to date. The results were reported to ScC-SC1.	Analysis will be finalized for presentation to COP12.	
2.5	<p>Res. 11.23 - Conservation Implications of Cetaceans Culture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting the Expert group Development of a publication on findings of the expert group Meeting of the expert group 	Medium Medium			10,000 40,000			Expert group established. TOR and workplan developed.		
2.6	<p>Res. 10.24 - Further steps to abate underwater noise pollution for the protection of cetaceans and other migratory species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of guidelines on EIA 	High	20,000			20,500	Monaco	TOR for Guidelines developed and being discussed with ASCOBANS and ACCOBAMS. CMS has joined Joint Noise Working Group.		
2.7	<p>Res. 11.29 - Sustainable Boat-based Marine Wildlife Watching</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of existing guidelines and development of guidelines on different taxa 	High				20,000	Monaco			

III.1 IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT – AQUATIC TEAM

No	Activities	Priority ranking	2015 and 2016					Status	Accomplishments	Notes
			Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
					Needed	Obtained	Source			
2.8	Res. 11.30 - Management of Marine debris · Translation of existing debris leaflet into further languages · Collaboration with regional and global instruments and possible creation of a multilateral working group	High	12,500					 Translation of leaflets underway.	Delayed by Umoja implementation.	
		Medium	10,000		10,000					Discussion held with UNEP on Marine Litter partnership.
New	Polar Bears (listed on App II at COP 11) · Symposium on Polar bears and Climate change	Medium	60,000		60,000		 Discussions ongoing with Norwegian Govt on hosting a symposium	To be undertaken if and when funding is available		
New	European Eels (listed on App II at COP11) · Scientific Symposium on the status and conservation needs of Eels, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders e.g. Sargasso Sea Commission	Medium	70,000			10,000	 Monaco	Matching funding provided by the Sea Sargasso Commission		
3	The Atlantic Turtle MoU · Revitalisation of the MoU by organizing a brainstorming meeting · Coordination (By UNV together with Abidjan Convention) · Supporting implementation · Organizing Third Meeting of Signatories	High	45,000		45,000		 Developing cooperation agreement with Abidjan convention			
		High	10,000		10,000					
		High	90,000		90,000					
		High	50,000		50,000					

III.1 IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT – AQUATIC TEAM

No.	Activities	Priority ranking	2015 and 2016				Status	Accomplishments	Notes	
			Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contribution					
					Needed	Obtained				Source
4	The Western African Aquatic Mammal MoU									
	· Revitalization of the MoU by organizing a brainstorming meeting	High	35,000		35,000					
	· Supporting implementation	High	90,000		90,000					
· Organizing First Meeting of Signatories	High	50,000		50,000						
5	The Pacific Islands Cetaceans MoU									
	· Outsourcing of the technical coordination	High	35,000		35,000		 			
	· Development of advisory Committee workspace	High	2,800		2,800	New Zealand				
	· Supporting implementation	Medium	100,000		100,000					
· Organizing Fourth Meeting of Signatories	High	50,000		15,000	Monaco	Scheduled for 2017				
6	The Mediterranean Monk Seal MoU									
	· Organizing meeting to revise the Action Plan	Low						Scheduled for 2017		
7	The Sharks MoU									
	· Providing in kind support from the CMS Secretariat	High						AC1, MOS2 and a meeting of the Intersessional Workshop organised and held in San Jose, Costa Rica in February 2016.		
	· Organizing the 2nd Meeting of Signatories (costs of the meeting to be covered by MoU Trust Fund)	High								





III.1 IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT - AQUATIC TEAM

No	Activities	Priority ranking	2015 and 2016					Status	Accomplishments	Notes
			Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contribution					
					Needed	Obtained	Source			
8	The Pacific Loggerhead Turtle Action Plan · Initiating and stimulating the implementation of the Action Plan.	Medium	100,000						Focal points established in most Range states, discussions ongoing with Inter-American Turtle Convention and SPREP.	
	Total		1,260,300	0	1,025,000	160,800				

III.2 IMPLEMENTATIONSUPPORT - AVIAN SPECIES TEAM

No.	Activities	Priority ranking	2015 and 2016					Status	Accomplishments	Notes
			Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
					Needed	Obtained	Source			
11	Implementation of Resolutions									
11.1	Res. 11.14 - The Programme of Work for Migratory Birds and Flyways · Coordination of and organization - funds permitting- of a meeting on Americas Flyways	High	56,500		56,500				A flyways workshop is planned in 2016/2017 with a focus on the Americas	
11.2	Res. 11.15 - Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds · Coordination of the WG and organization -funds permitting- of a meeting of the WG to identify priorities within the Action Plan	High	170,000		170,000				A workshop to develop a plan to implement the guidelines in the southern African region was organized on 24 August 2015, back to back with the AEWA pre-MOP and sponsored by the EC.	
11.3	Res. 11.16 - Preventing Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds · Coordination and meeting of the Mediterranean Task Force	High	150,000		0	150,000	EC	Task-force and consultative consultation group set up	Coordination is covered for 3 years	
11.4	Res. 11.17 - Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region · Coordination of the WG and organization -funds permitting- of a meeting of the WG back-to-back with sub-regional workshop to identify priorities within the Action Plan	High	280,000		200,000	80,000	Switzerland	A teleconference of the Steering Group was organized on the 12 June 2015 A meeting of the landbirds working group was held in November 2015 in Abidjan.	A meeting focusing on land use in Africa is planned to take place in Nigeria in November 2016.	

III.2 IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT - AVIAN SPECIES TEAM

No.	Activities	Priority ranking	2015 and 2016					Status	Accomplishments	Notes
			Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
					Needed	Obtained	Source			
12	The Aquatic Warbler MoU · Organizing the 3 rd Meeting of Signatories. · Supporting implementation. · Outsourcing of the technical coordination.	Medium	50,000		50,000				The 3 rd Meeting of Signatories took place the 20-22 May 2015 in Lithuania. Costs were covered by an EU LIFE project on Baltic Aquatic Warbler. A contract outsourcing the coordination of the MOU was signed in June 2015	
		Medium	100,000		100,000					
		High	20,000		10,000	10,000				
13	The Great Bustard MoU · Organizing the 4 th Meeting of Signatories.	Medium	50,000		50,000			The meeting is planned for 2017 and will be hosted by Germany		
14	The Ruddy-headed Goose MoU	Low						The MOU is coordinated by Chile and Argentina		
15	The Slender-billed Curlew MoU	Low								

III.2 IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT - AVIAN SPECIES TEAM

No.	Activities	Priority ranking	2015 and 2016					Status	Accomplishments	Notes
			Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
					Needed	Obtained	Source			
16	The Siberian Crane MoU									
	· Participate in conservation planning workshop for eastern flyway	High						Workshop completed	The workshop took place 1-8 June in China. Travel costs of CMS Secretariat were covered by the International Crane Foundation	
	· Organizing the 8th Meeting of Signatories.	Medium	50,000		50,000				There are plans to organize the next MOS in China, funds permitting	
	· Supporting implementation.	Medium	100,000		100,000				Funds are needed to outsource coordination to the International Crane Foundation	
	· Outsourcing of the technical coordination	High	20,000		20,000					
17	The Andean Flamingos MoU									
	· Organizing Meeting of Signatories	High	10,000				Meeting sponsored by the EU and Perú	Ongoing	The meeting took place in April 2016, hosted by Peru in the city of Cusco	
	· Supporting implementation	High	100,000		100,000					
18	The South American Grassland Birds MoU									
	· Organizing Meeting of Signatories	High	50,000		50,000					
	· Supporting implementation.	High	100,000		100,000					
New	Baer's Pochard Action Plan									
	· Action Plan to be submitted to COP12 for adoption	Medium							Action Plan has been developed by WWT and meanwhile adopted by EAAFP.	
New	Eastern Curlew									
	· Development of an Action Plan	Medium			0	15,000	Australia		The Action Plan is being developed by an ad hoc Task Force under the East Asian Australasian Flyway Partnership	

III.2 IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT TEAM - AVIAN SPECIES TEAM

No.	Activities	Priority ranking	2015 and 2016					Status	Accomplishments	Notes
			Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
					Needed	Obtained	Source			
New	Yellow breasted Bunting · Development of an Action Plan	Medium			0				Discussion ongoing with BirdLife International for the organization of an action planning workshop	
New	Asian Great Bustard · Scientific Conference for development of an Action Plan	Low	40,000		40,000				This subspecies of Great Bustard was listed on Appendix I at COP11. Resources to organize this conference have not been found yet	
	Total		1,346,500	0	1,096,500	255,000				

III.3 IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT TEAM – TERRESTRIAL SPECIES TEAM

No.	Activities	Priority ranking	2015 and 2016				Status	Accomplishments	Notes
			Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions				
					Needed	Obtained			
20	Implementation of Resolutions								
20.1	Res. 11.13 'Concerted and Cooperative Action' African Wild dog (Res. 11.13, Appendix II) · Strengthen the implementation of IUCN Regional Strategies and National Action Plans	Medium							
	Cheetah (Res. 11.13, Appendix I) · Strengthen the implementation of IUCN Regional Strategies and National Action Plans · Conduct cheetah workshop in Iran and develop a regional programme for conservation and restoration of cheetah (CAMI Work Programme 2.3, Res.11.24)	Medium						To be implemented when funding is available	
	African savannah and forest elephant (Res. 11.13, Appendix II) · Strengthen mapping and conservation of transboundary corridors · Facilitate strengthened transboundary monitoring (e.g. SMART)	Medium						To be implemented when funding is available To be implemented when funding is available	
	White-eared Kob (Res. 11.13, Appendix II) · Transboundary workshop to strengthen protected area network based on satellite-collar data from ongoing project	Medium	10,700					Mapping of multi-species ecological corridor across Ethiopia and South Sudan. The workshop is part of a larger satellite-collaring project.	

III.3 IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT TEAM – TERRESTRIAL SPECIES TEAM

No.	Activities	Priority ranking	2015 and 2016					Status	Accomplishments	Notes
			Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
					Needed	Obtained	Source			
	<p>African bats (Res. 11.13, Appendix II)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gaps and needs assessment to guide targeted action within CMS framework 	Medium	30,000		30,000				To be implemented when funding is available	
20.2	<p>Res. 11.24 The Central Asian Mammals Initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associate Programme Officer for CAMI (full-time) CAMI Work Programme implementation (Res.11.24, Table 1), where high priority activities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 1.1 on illegal hunting and trade: e.g. capacity building/training for rangers and law enforcement personnel, support national legislative review, strengthen monitoring methods and application Section 1.3 on Infrastructure: e.g. strengthen knowledge and dissemination on species/landscape mapping, develop outreach materials on barriers to migration, establishment of multi-agency taskforces for large infrastructure projects, organize expert working group meetings, organize technical infrastructure workshops 	High	96,102	45,102	51,000			2 Interim consultants since February 2015 until November 2016; recruitment for CAMI Officer completed by December 2016	50% position covered by CMS budget since COP11	
		High	240,000		240,000	35,000	Switzerland	Stimulate CAMI POW implementation during CAMI expert Workshop in August 2016	Cost estimates are minimum estimates for triennium	
		High	160,000		160,000			A workshop on anti-poaching measures for CAMI co-organized by CMS and BfN will take place tentatively in February 2017	Cost estimates are minimum estimates for triennium	
								The Guidelines for Addressing the Impact of Linear Infrastructure on Large Migratory Mammals in Central Asia were produced and funds received for their Russian translation from Germany in 2016. One workshop focusing on Mongolia was conducted, workshops involving more range states needed. Concrete measures to modify existing barriers needed (example, "saiga crossing options"). Establishment of multi-agency taskforces for large infrastructure projects, and expert working group meetings were not addressed due to lack of resources and staff time		

III.3 IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT TEAM – TERRESTRIAL SPECIES TEAM

No.	Activities	Priority ranking	2015 and 2016					Status	Accomplishments	Notes
			Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
					Needed	Obtained	Source			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop to promote the Guidelines for Addressing the Impact of Linear Infrastructure on Large Migratory Mammals in Central Asia Section 1.4. on good governance of natural resource management/ policy and legislation: e.g. Facilitate expert working group for scaling up successful national policies to regional level, technical workshops on border fence sectors, agriculture, infrastructure; best practice guidelines (e.g. monitoring) Section 1.5 on Human needs/community engagement in conservation: e.g. Promotion of sustainable livelihood schemes, develop materials for educators and develop activities to communicate conservation message, strengthen ecotourism Section 1.6 on Scientific Knowledge: e.g. Conduct gap analysis to understand species-specific knowledge gaps Section 1.7 on transboundary cooperation: e.g. Build on existing processes and structures, promote benefits of cooperation Kick-start coordination and implementation of the Single Species Action Plan on the Conservation of Argali 	High	30,000				Germany (BMUB, BfN)	Priority actions, lessons learn, Ulaanbataar Action Plan including Trans-Mongolian railway modifications (see agenda)	25-29 August 2015, UB, Mongolia	
		High	85,000		85,000				Cost estimates are minimum estimates for triennium	
		High	20,000		20,000				Cost estimates are minimum estimates for triennium	
		High	25,000		25,000			Assessment of Gaps and Needs in Migratory Mammal Conservation in Central Asia in 2014. No further work done on this	Cost estimates are minimum estimates for triennium	
		High	5,000		5,000			Attending NABU-organized Meeting with GSLEP in Bin July 2016 in Berlin to promote more active cooperation and to address improving trans-boundary cooperation	Cost estimates are minimum estimates for triennium	
		High	40,000		40,000			No action lack of funds		
20.3	<p>International Single Species Action Plan for the conservation of Argali</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kick-start coordination and implementation of the Single Species Action Plan on the Conservation of Argali 	High	40,000		40,000			No action lack of funds		

III.3 IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT TEAM – TERRESTRIAL SPECIES TEAM

No.	Activities	Priority ranking	2015 and 2016					Status	Accomplishment	Notes
			Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
					Needed	Obtained	Source			
20.4	<p>Res. 11.32 Conservation and Management of the African Lion, <i>Panthera leo</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessing the population and conservation status of lions within range states through a questionnaire for presentation at StC44 Organizing a meeting of range states to assess and evaluate the implementation of the Conservation Strategy for the lion in Eastern and Southern Africa (2006) and the Conservation Strategy for the lion in West and Central Africa (2006), and develop regional conservation action plans 	High	120,000	-	120,000	55,000	Germany, Netherlands and UK		To be implemented when funding is available	
21	<p>The Saiga MoU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalization of the National Report Format and revision and update of the Medium Term International Work Programme 2010-2015 Outsourcing of the technical coordination Supporting implementation (e.g. Capacity building for wildlife health authorities, modification of border fence, equipment for protected areas) Organizing Third Meeting of Signatories (26-29 October 2015, Tashkent) 	High	18,153			18,153	Germany	Accomplished and finalized at saiga MOS 3	To be implemented when funding is available	
		High	10,000			15,000	Germany	Outsourcing MOU coordination was done successfully for 2015 and beginning of 2016. The funds were used up by early 2016, due to the cost of the Saiga Resource Centre and related activities. More funds are needed urgently to continue MOU coordination and maintenance of the Saiga Resource Centre in 2016 and beyond.		
		High	170,000		170,000	15,000	Germany	Protocol for taking samples after mass die off events to be finalized and translated by SCA in 2016. Border fence Kazakhstan-Uzbekistan modified successfully. No other new activities since 2015		
		High	35,000			38,000	UNEP ROE and Germany	Accomplished in 2015		
22	<p>The Bukhara Deer MoU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting implementation and outsourcing technical implementation of the MOU Organizing technical workshop and 2nd Meeting of Signatories 	Medium	100,000			100,000			Foreseen for 2016/2017	
		Medium	55,000			55,000				

III.3 IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT TEAM – TERRESTRIAL SPECIES TEAM

No.	Activities	Priority ranking	2015 and 2016					Status	Accomplishment	Notes
			Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
					Needed	Obtained	Source			
23	The Western African Elephant MoU · Updating the Medium Term International Work Programme · Supporting implementation (e.g. Follow-up workshop in Burkina Faso on community-based anti-poaching) · Organizing Third Meeting of Signatories	High	20,000		20,000			[Red]		
		High	100,000		100,000					
		High	55,000		55,000					
24	The Huemul Deer MoU · Implemented by Argentina and Chile through a bi-national Action Plan	Low						[Green]	No actions currently needed, we must keep track of the disease situation, offer help if needed in 2017	
25	The Sahelo/Saharan Antelope Action Plan · Updating and review of the 1998/2006 Action Plan · Organising meeting of range states to adopt the Action Plan (2016/2017) Meeting of Addax Range States to discuss conservation priorities following rapid decline of addax in 2016	Medium	18,590	-		18,590	USFWS	[Green]	Action Plan in Review Range State meeting postponed	
		Medium						[Yellow]	Addax meeting in discussion	
		High								
26	The Gorilla Agreement · Outsourcing of the technical coordination · Supporting implementation (including GRASP-CMS project) · Organizing the 3rd Meeting of Parties back-to-back with the next GRASP Meeting (Indonesia 2016)	High	50,000		50,000			[Red]	MOS3 scheduled for November 2016.	
		High	100,000		100,000			[Yellow]		
		High	35,000	26,962	7,000	GA Parties and Germany				

III.3 IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT TEAM – TERRESTRIAL SPECIES TEAM

No.	Activities	Priority ranking	2015 and 2016					Status	Accomplishment	Notes
			Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
					Needed	Obtained	Source			
26	Action to Conserve the African Wild Ass <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work to address the conservation of the AWA. • Kick-off meeting on June 9th 2016 (BMUB) • Range State meeting planned in early 2017 to draft an International Species Action Plan 	High	20,000						Kick-off meeting held and next steps identified	Range state meeting planned for 2017
Total			1,688,545	72,064	1,466,000	251,743				

III.4 SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY SERVICE

No.	Activities	Priority ranking	2015 and 2016					Status	Accomplishment	Notes
			Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
					Needed	Obtained	Source			
28 Implementation of Resolutions										
28.1	<p>Res. 11.25 – Ecological Networks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stimulating the implementation of the Resolution on Ecological Networks particularly in Africa by programme planning in 2015 and a kick-start meeting in 2016 	High	250,000						Resolution to be implemented in the context of the EU large wildlife conservation programme- See resource mobilization document.	
28.2	<p>Res. 11. 27 Renewable Energy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination and operation of the Energy Task Force and organization of its first meeting Contributing to the further development of the Guidelines 	High	120,000			180 000	Germany	<p>Preliminary Programme of Work for the TF and the Coordinator agreed. Identification of members of the TF in progress.</p> <p>Contacts have been maintained between CMS and AEWA Secretariats and IRENA on the further development of the guidelines</p>	<p>Funding obtained covers the triennium.</p> <p>This activity is expected to be undertaken mainly after AEWA MOP6</p>	

III.4 SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY SERVICE

No.	Activities	Priority ranking	2015 and 2016					Status	Accomplishment	Notes
			Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
					Needed	Obtained	Source			
28.3	<p>Res. 11.31 Fighting Wildlife Crime and offences within and beyond the borders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity-building for rangers, customs, police, military and other relevant bodies Strengthen collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including ICCWC and each of its partner agencies (CITES, INTERPOL, UNODC, the World Bank and the WCO), UNEP, Regional Fishery Management Organizations (RFMOs), and regional Wildlife Enforcement Networks (WENs) and Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW) 		- 200,000	- -		200,000				To be implemented when funding is available
29	<p>Facilitating the Work of the Scientific Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assisting ScC Chair in organizing workshops on Connectivity 	Core	50,000			50,000	Regional Po Delta Park		A workshop took place in Albarella (Venice, Italy) from 28-30 September 2015, financially supported and hosted by the Po Delta Regional Park. The Po Delta Regional Park expressed interest in hosting a 2 nd workshop aimed at finalizing ScC input to COP12 on connectivity.	Activity led by the ScC Chair, with the Secretariat providing advice notably as regards experts' attendance and workshop programme

III.4 SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY SERVICE

No.	Activities	Priority ranking	2015 and 2016					Status	Accomplishment	Notes
			Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
					Needed	Obtained	Source			
	<p>Devise a consultative process to advise StC and COP on the composition of the Sessional Committee</p> <p>Develop Terms of Reference for the ScC</p>							<p>Options for a consultative process for the appointment of the Sessional Committee of the ScC by COP12 and subsequent COP meetings were submitted to StC44 for consideration.</p> <p>Based on StC44 guidance, a proposal for a consultative process is being submitted to StC45 for consideration.</p> <p>With a view to the appointment of the Sessional Committee for the period 2015-2017 by StC44, the Secretariat solicited and compiled expressions of interest to be members of the Committee from members of the ScC. On this basis, StC44 appointed the members of the Sessional Committee for the period 2015-2017.</p> <p>Draft Terms of Reference for the ScC were compiled by the Secretariat and submitted to StC44 for its consideration. StC44 provisionally approved them, with a view to their final endorsement by COP12.</p>	<p>More detail provided in documents UNEP/CMS/StC44/14 and UNEP/CMS/StC45/13.1</p> <p>More detail provided in document UNEP/CMS/StC44/14</p>	

III.4 SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY SERVICE

No.	Activities	Priority ranking	2015 and 2016					Status	Accomplishment	Notes
			Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
					Needed	Obtained	Source			
30	<p>Conservation status of CMS species</p> <p>· Coordinating preparations of review report on the conservation status of species listed on CMS Appendices</p>	High	175,000		165,000	10,000	Switzerland		Workshop with key partners (IUCN, WCMC, BLI, WI) to develop proposal for the ToR and format of the report being planned. Activity identified as priority for fundraising efforts.	Linked to assessment of Strategic Plan implementation
31	Implementation of the Small Grants Programme	High	200,000		200,000				Contracts signed between the Secretariat and the implementing agencies for projects funded under the 2014 cycle, and project Implementation being monitored.	New calls for project proposals will be made only in the presence of voluntary contributions in support of the programme
32	<p>Development of Atlas on Animal Migration</p> <p>· Starting with the African Eurasian region, migratory birds atlas taking into consideration ones already existing</p>	High	750,000		750,000				ToR and project concept being developed. Dedicated session on this initiative scheduled within the ScC workshop on connectivity	Initiative developed in consultation with the ScC
33	<p>Facilitate the implementation of the Programme of Work on Climate Change and prepare progress report to COP12</p> <p>· Organizing 1st meeting of the Climate Change Working Group</p>	High	35,000		25,000	10,000	Germany		Concept for the meeting being developed in consultation between the Secretariat and the COP-appointed councilor for Climate Change	
	Total		1,780,000	0	1,340,000	250,000				


IV. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND INTERAGENCY AFFAIRS

No.	Activities	Priority ranking	2015 and 2016					Status	Accomplishments	Notes
			Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
					Needed	Obtained	Source			
1	Resource Mobilization									
	· Developing project proposals	Core						Many proposals developed and submitted which resulted in the funding raised for the POW	Strategy for approaching Private sector is being outlined	
	· Identifying potential donors, liaise with them on new proposals and/or report to them ongoing/finalized projects	Core								
	· Pursue partnerships with the Private Sector incl. the development of a strategy as part of the Champion Programme	High								
	· Developing a CMS Resource Assessment and Mobilization Plan	Core	50,000							
· Implementing the Migratory Species Champion Programme	Core	4,000			5,000	Finland				
2	Promote CMS Issues in UN System									
	Participating in meetings of / with e.g.:							Eleventh ordinary meeting of the BLG held the 23 August 2016 in Bonn	Follow-up ongoing	
	· Biodiversity Liaison Group (BLG)	High								
	· EMG and IMG Biodiversity Group	Low								
	· UNEP 2015 Strategic Group and Post-2015 process of Sustainable Development Goals	Medium								
	· UNEP MEA Management Team meetings	Medium								
	· Participating in NBSAPs Forum (UNEP-, UNDP-, CBD-led) to provide information on behalf of the CMS Family	High								
· Global Programme on Oceans (GPO)	Medium									
· UNEP MEA Focal Points	High						Work completed and related Resolution adopted by UNEA 2 Link to NBSAP forum included on CMS Family website	Follow-up ongoing		

IV. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND INTERAGENCY AFFAIRS

No.	Activities	Priority ranking	2015 and 2016				Status	Accomplishment	Notes
			Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions				
					Needed	Obtained			
3	Strengthen Existing Collaboration with MEAs · Coordinating and overseeing the implementation of the Joint Work Plans with CBD, Ramsar and CITES · Strengthening the collaboration with UNESCO-WHC, UNFCCC, UNCCD and IWC · Maintaining collaboration with other MEAs e.g. Bern Convention, Cartagena Convention, etc.	High						New JWP with CBD and Ramsar completed Bern Convention member of Task Force on Illegal Killing of Birds	
		Medium							
		Low							
4	Strengthen Existing Collaboration with IGOs and Civil Society · Strengthening the relationship with e.g. EU, SPREP, IUCN and Civil Society, where appropriate	Medium							
5	Engagement in New Strategic Cooperation · Continuing cooperation with IRENA, building on results of joint project. · Pursuing joint interests and activities with WWF in the context of the partnerships agreement · Exploring possible engagement of GEF, UNDP, World Bank and others in implementation of CMS.	High							
		High							
		Medium							
6	RESOURCE MOBILIZATION								
7	CMS AMBASSADORS · Continuing to liaise with the CMS Ambassadors to expand their programme to support CMS and identifying new Ambassadors, as appropriate.	Medium	20,000		20,000			Ambassadors provided statements in support of the World Migratory Bird Day	Programme is being revamped

IV. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND INTERAGENCY AFFAIRS

No.	Activities	Priority ranking	2015 and 2016				Status	Accomplishment	Notes
			Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contribution				
					Needed	Obtained			
8	Strengthen Regional Presence Implementation of CMS · African Regional Coordinator for raising awareness, building partnerships, mobilizing resources and the recruitment of new Parties to enhance visibility and general implementation of the Convention in the Africa region. · Western Hemisphere Regional Coordinator for raising awareness, building partnerships, mobilizing resources and the recruitment of new Parties to enhance visibility and general implementation of the Convention in the LAC region. · Pacific Regional Coordinator for raising awareness, building partnerships, mobilizing resources and the recruitment of new Parties to enhance visibility and general implementation of the Convention in the Pacific region.	High	202,000		202,000		 Requests of funds sent to all Parties same as above same as above	No resources obtained	
		High	202,000		202,000			same as above	
		High	202,000		202,000			same as above	
Total			680,000	0	626,000	5,000			

V. INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH

No.	Activities	Priority ranking	2015 and 2016					Status	Accomplishments	Notes
			Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
					Needed	Obtained	Source			
1	Communication Strategy									
	· Organizing workshops to develop and discuss the Strategy	Core	100,000		100,000				To be undertaken if and when funding is available	
	· Developing a common Communication Strategy for AEWA and CMS; a first step toward a CMS Family-wide strategy	Core	50,000			25,000	Germany	Communication Strategy provided by independent Consultant	Shared funding with AEWA Secretariat.	
	· Developing a common branding for the CMS Family	Medium	40,000		40,000				To be undertaken if and when funding is available.	
2	Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA)									
	· Initiating the development of a common CEPA Programme for AEWA and CMS	Medium							Scheduled for 2017	
	· Organizing CEPA Workshops to ensure a participatory process	Medium	50,000		50,000				Scheduled for 2017	
	· Developing the CEPA Programme	Medium							Scheduled for 2017	
	· Developing a CEPA Toolkit	Medium	100,000		100,000				Scheduled for 2017	
3	Electronic Information Tools									
	· Maintaining and/ or developing other websites e.g. World Migratory Bird Day	Core	10,000						World Migratory Bird Day Website Developed for the 2015 and 2016 annual campaign	New Website built using the Drupal (open source) Content Management System
	· Maintaining and further developing the CMS Family Website	Core	20,000	13,000	7,000		as part of the contributions for the WMBD campaign	CMS Website being actively maintained by multiple Secretariat staff. CMS Family Website WG (re-launched) to identify areas of improvement / further development	Funding available to secure basic technical maintenance of CMS Family Website, but resources needed to be able to make further improvements (Development Costs)	

No.	Activities	Priority ranking	2015 and 2016					Status	Accomplishments	Notes
			Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
					Needed	Obtained	Source			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programme Officer to maintain and further develop electronic information tools Maintaining and further developing online Workspaces e.g. for the Scientific Council 	Core	194,000	91,000				Recruitment process for 50% P2 Post still ongoing. Consultant hired in April 2015 to fill the gap.	Funding urgently needed to be able to upgrade the part-time P-2 to a full time position. This is a core position within the new Joint CMS+AEWA Communications, Information Management and Outreach Unit.	
		Core	20,000		20,000					
4	Campaigns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizing the campaigns e.g. World Migratory Bird Day, World Wildlife Day and support campaigns of other MEAs.. 	High	65,000			65,000	Germany	World Migratory Bird Day 2015 and 2016 Campaigns successfully implemented	Shared Activity between CMS and AEWA Secretariats	
5	Information Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further developing and maintaining the Online Reporting System incl. Analytical Tool Analysing and synthesizing of National Reports Managing in- and outgoing mail and keeping the contact database up to date 	High	100,000						UNEP-WCMC received a significant grant from the EC / ACP Project to upgrade the Online Reporting System from which CMS benefitted Scheduled for 2017 Ongoing Activity	

V. INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH

No.	Activities	Priority ranking	2015 and 2016					Status	Accomplishments	Notes
			Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
					Needed	Obtained	Source			
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Writing of Press Releases, Op-Eds, Articles, etc. including responding to Media requests · Furthering the use of Social Media to increase the visibility of the CMS Family · Improving the use of Multi Media 	Core						<p>Substantial number of press releases, Op-Eds and Articles have been published.</p> <p>Substantial number of messages on Social Media published.</p> <p>In-house production of video statements (ES)</p>	<p>Since the creation of the IMCA Team the number of press releases, Op-Eds, Articles and messages on Social Media has increased significantly. More could be done if funding would become available for e.g. production of professional videos. So far we have relied on in-house capacity for the production of audio-visual material.</p>	
		High	100,000		100,000					
		Medium	20,000		20,000					
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Organizing and supervising the printing of publications 	Core	40,000		40,000			<p>In-house capacity for design / desktop publishing strengthened (AEWA Staff Member of Joint Communications Team)</p>		
Total			260,000	104,000	477,000	98,000				

VI. CAPACITY BUILDING

No.	Activities	Priority ranking	2015 and 2016					Status	Accomplishments	note
			Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
					Needed	Obtained	Source			
1	<p>Capacity Building</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stimulating the use of E-community to increase communication between National Focal Points. Evaluating the usefulness of the existing capacity-building tools e.g. National Focal Point Manual, E-community, etc. 	Core High								
2	<p>Regional Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizing and servicing preparatory meeting for COP12 in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Pacific. 	High	200,000		50,000	150,000	EC		Funding needed for the organization of a Pre-COP in Central Asia	
3	<p>Recruitment of Parties</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing a Strategy to recruit new Parties. Liaising with non-Party Range States to provide them with the necessary information to make an informed decision to join CMS and/or one or more of its instruments. Assisting countries to accede to CMS 	Core Core Core	90,000			180,000	EC	More than estimated funding obtained. Two workshops held	Funding for 4 regional workshops in the Caribbean, Latin America, South-East Asia and Pacific (2015-2016). Total estimate covers the triennium	
4	<p>Capacity-Building</p> <p>Implementing the Capacity-Building Strategy 2015-2017 by identifying specific needs, Training of Trainers, developing materials and organizing capacity-building workshops in particular in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Pacific, etc.</p>	Core	350,000		350,000					
	Total		640,000		400,000	330,000				

VII. SERVICING OF GOVERNING BODIES AND OTHER CMS MEETINGS

No.	Activities	Priority ranking	2015 and 2016					Status	Accomplishments	Notes
			Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
					Needed	Obtained	Source			
1	The 12th Meeting of the Conference of Parties (including hiring Conference Officer, support for funded delegates, contracting ENB and organization of High Level Segment).	Core								
2	The Standing Committee including maintaining regular contact	Core	43,732	43,732						
3	The Scientific Council including maintaining regular contact	Core	100,816	100,816					Additional funding is not needed	
4	Servicing and organizing (logistically) of any other CMS meeting e.g. Meeting of Signatories to MoUs, Meeting of Parties to the Gorilla Agreement, Workshops, etc.	Core								
5	CMS Family Retreat	Core	25,400	25,400				Improved cooperation with the CMS Family, particularly with respect to aquatic and avian species.		
	Total		169,948	169,948						