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**REPORT OF UNEP
TO THE NINTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
TO THE CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES OF WILD ANIMALS**

(Submitted by UNEP, Nairobi)



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**Report on activities undertaken by the United Nations
Environment Programme to the ninth meeting of the
Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the
Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals**

I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared for the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, which will be held from 1 to 5 December 2008 in Rome. The report provides information on activities undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in support of the Convention and its agreements and memorandums of understanding. Most of the issues are being addressed by UNEP through its 2006-2007 and 2008-2009 programmes of work.

2. The report also describes UNEP administrative and financial support, together with human resources management services provided to the Convention by the United Nations Office at Nairobi. In addition to the present report, supplementary information will be presented by UNEP, in the forms of publications and documents, at the ninth meeting of the Conference of Parties.

II. UNEP substantive support to the Convention

A. Contribution to 2010 targets

3. UNEP has built upon the complementarity between the 2010 targets and the Convention Strategic Plan 2006-2011, especially considerations of the integration of migratory species into national biodiversity strategies. The Division of Global Environment Facility Coordination is enabling activities in which Parties are currently examining the 2010 targets to determine their achievements in formulating national targets based on global targets. This exercise was part of the third national report process in which the Division supported 36 countries and the Biodiversity Service of the UNEP Regional Office for Europe.

4. The Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy, jointly serviced by UNEP and the Council of Europe, reinforces the implementation of existing measures to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity and to identify additional actions required. At the fifth ministerial conference on the environment for Europe, held in Kyiv from 21 to 23 May 2003, ministers and heads of delegation endorsed the Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity, by which they agreed to halt the loss of biological diversity in the pan-European region by 2010. Governments agreed to work towards this goal through concerted actions and a joint commitment to achieving key targets in the areas of forest biodiversity, agricultural biodiversity, protected areas and ecological networks, invasive alien species, financing of biodiversity conservation, biodiversity monitoring and indicators and public participation and awareness. At the sixth ministerial conference, held in Belgrade in 2007, ministers and heads of delegations endorsed the Belgrade Statement, in which they agreed, among other things, to continue to make efforts to attain the pan-European 2010 biodiversity target and to continue to support the implementation of the Pan-European Ecological Network as an important means of protecting biodiversity in Europe and enhancing landscape permeability for wildlife populations, communities and assemblages.

5. In Africa, UNEP is working with several partners in research, conservation and management to tackle the declining lesser flamingo populations in the Rift Valley lakes. Project partners include the World Wildlife Fund Eastern Africa Regional Programme Office, the East African Wild Life Society, Kenya Wildlife Service, Nature Kenya, universities, Kenyan government ministries, the private sector and China. The project commenced in April 2007 and has been completed, with a report establishing a sound scientific knowledge base on the probable causes of the frequent lesser flamingo mortality in East Africa (including recommendations for remedial actions at the local and regional levels), and, among other things, a national action plan elaborated for the conservation of the lesser flamingo *Phoeniconaias minor* in Kenya.

6. UNEP continues to deploy its technical and scientific expertise to facilitate the effective implementation of the Convention, its agreements and memorandums of understanding, together with other UNEP global and regional environmental conventions. In responding to the 2010 goals and subtargets, UNEP carried out the activities set out below during the biennium 2006–2007, with other activities planned for the current biennium.

1. Assessment of 2010 progress

7. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) project entitled “Building the partnership to track progress at the global level in achieving the 2010 biodiversity target”, facilitated by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, aims to support the global delivery of a full suite of 2010 indicators meaningful to a range of audiences in supporting policy intervention and communicating success in attaining the 2010 target. The indicators will be delivered through a partnership of organizations and agencies working on individual indicators. While they will be meaningful at the global level, they will also be clearly linked to related indicators at the national and regional levels, in particular the Millennium Development Goals.

8. In the pan-European region, Governments have agreed to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010. Among other relevant activities to attain this target, UNEP has been participating in the Streamlining European 2010 Biodiversity Indicators project in conjunction with the European Environment Agency and other partners. A set of 26 core indicators has been developed for the region, including indicators on abundance and distribution of selected species, a red list index for European species, species of European interest, ecosystem coverage, habitats of European interest, nationally designated protected areas and fragmentation of natural and semi-natural areas, with a view to monitoring the achievement of the biodiversity target in the region.

2. Early warning and assessment

9. UNEP, through its Division of Early Warning and Assessment, provides the world community with improved access to meaningful environmental data and information, including on biological diversity, to help to build Governments' capacity to use environmental information for decision-making and planning action for sustainable human development. The Division monitors, analyses and reports on the state of the global environment, assesses global and regional environmental trends and provides early warning of emerging environmental threats.

3. Global Environment Outlook

10. The Division of Early Warning and Assessment launched its fourth comprehensive assessment report, *Global Environment Outlook: Environment for Development (GEO4)*, in October 2007. *GEO4* provides a review on the state of the environment at the global and regional levels, based on an up-to-date set of scientific data and information. It also presents global and regional issues in the context of the development of international environmental governance and their relation to the Millennium Development Goals, together with targets for 2010. It assesses the challenges and opportunities of some key cross-cutting issues, particularly as they relate to how the environment can contribute to sustainable development goals and targets, and how environmental degradation can impede progress towards those targets, focusing on vulnerable groups, species, ecosystems and spatial areas.

B. Great Apes Survival Project

11. The Great Apes Survival Project partnership supported the negotiations leading to the signing of the binding Agreement on the Conservation of Gorillas and Their Habitats (under the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species) by 10 African range States in October 2007. According to the agreement, a member of the Project will sit on the technical committee.

12. The Project is working with the Convention on Migratory Species on a Central African workshop to integrate migratory species into national biodiversity strategies and action plans. The workshop, scheduled for 22–25 September 2008 in Limbe, Cameroon, will use the national and regional great ape survival plans that were developed within the Project framework.

13. Following the slaughter of gorillas in 2007 in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Project encouraged UNEP to develop a comprehensive response to the humanitarian and environmental situation in the Virunga region. As part of this programme, the Project has been facilitating a stakeholder dialogue process bringing together humanitarian and conservation agencies and local Government and park staff to find solutions to the pressing problems caused by the continuing conflict that affects humans and gorillas alike.

14. UNEP is currently working to ensure that great ape priority population sites are among the first to benefit from carbon financing from the reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation mechanism. The Great Apes Survival Project has begun the first UNEP project under that mechanism at sites in Cameroon and Indonesia. The former will benefit the highly endangered cross river gorilla. Additionally, the World Conservation Monitoring Centre is currently working with the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, supported by the Arcus Foundation, in the development of a pilot online information system on great apes with a view to facilitating the development of a coherent and comprehensive picture of the status of great apes, of the factors threatening them and of current conservation practice.

15. The Project is working with the Convention on preparations for the first meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Gorillas and Their Habitats, to be held on 29 November 2008 in Rome, and for the "Year of the Gorilla", led by the Convention on Migratory Species, in 2009. A number of joint activities are planned.

C. UNEP Regional Seas Programme and Marine Ecosystems Unit

16. UNEP, through its Regional Seas Programme and Marine Ecosystems Unit, and the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals, are working together on marine biodiversity conservation, including the following continuing or developing national and subregional activities:

(i) Joint activity for dugong conservation and management. The primary objective is to develop a national and subregional dugong conservation strategy for the large range of dugong around Indonesia. Another objective is to raise awareness of the role of the Regional Seas Programme and the Convention in biodiversity conservation by giving support to extend the work already carried by the Convention on the conservation and management of dugong and their habitats. The main outputs of this joint activity are the establishment of a national dugong conservation strategy and action plan for Indonesia, the development of a pilot project in one of the States across the dugong migratory range and dissemination of the results and recommendations from the project between the range States of dugong migratory areas;

(ii) Joint collaboration with the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area to reduce threats to cetaceans in Mediterranean and Black Sea waters and improve knowledge of these animals;

(iii) Joint collaboration with the ECOCEAN Whale Shark Photo-Identification Library on conservation of whale sharks, including data collection and mapping of migratory patterns of whale sharks in the Indian Ocean, and development of a public awareness brochure on whale sharks;

(iv) Development of joint activity between UNEP, the Convention on Migratory Species and the Plan of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the Southeast Pacific with special focus on reduction of by-catch of marine mammals;

(v) Adoption of the regional programme for the conservation of marine turtles in the South-East Pacific, aiming at protecting and conserving from human activities five species of marine turtles inhabiting the region, of which two are considered to be critically endangered, two to be endangered and one to be a vulnerable species.

17. UNEP and the Blue Ocean Institute published the study "Shark Depredation and Unwanted Bycatch in Pelagic Longline Fisheries: Industry Practices and Attitudes, and Shark Avoidance Strategies 2007". This study benefits pelagic longline fleets that do not want to catch sharks and want to reduce shark depredation. It can be downloaded from the Regional Seas website (<http://www.unep.org/regionalseas/>).

D. Conservation and management of marine turtles

18. The Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia puts in place a framework through which States of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia region, together with other concerned States, can work together to conserve and replenish depleted marine turtle populations for which they share responsibility. Major threats to marine turtles include unsustainable exploitation, destruction of nesting and feeding habitats and incidental mortality in fishing operations. The conservation and management plan, containing 24 programmes and 105 specific activities, focuses on reducing threats, conserving critical habitats, exchanging scientific data, raising public awareness and participation, promoting regional cooperation and seeking resources for implementation.

19. For over three years UNEP has been supporting a partnership that the Convention established with the environment component of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, which consists of the establishment of a coordination unit in Dakar as an experimental step to enhance the efficiency of a non-binding agreement concerning the conservation of six threatened species of marine turtles of the Atlantic coast of Africa. A

workshop was held in 2007, which led to the establishment of the first coordination unit work programme in cooperation with the range States. The second meeting of the signatory States to this memorandum of understanding took place in March 2008. The outcomes of these activities encourage such a partnership to be pursued with a view to revitalizing the memorandum of understanding concerning conservation measures for marine turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa.

E. United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre

20. The UNEP project on knowledge management among biodiversity conventions is a joint project between the Division of Environmental Law and Conventions and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre and tackles two specific areas in which UNEP is in a position to develop and build capacity for multilateral environmental agreements implementation: knowledge management and national reporting to conventions and agreements.

1. Harmonization of national reporting

21. Through the knowledge management project, the Division of Environmental Law and Conventions and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre have identified potential joint core reporting elements of biodiversity-related conventions and agreements, including the Convention on Migratory Species, and have been examining the suitability of the approach to national reporting used by the human rights treaty system, whereby Parties submit a single core report for all treaties and treaty-specific reports. This builds on previous work with the biodiversity-related conventions on approaches to harmonizing national reporting. Those results were discussed at a workshop hosted by the World Conservation Monitoring Centre on knowledge management in support of improved agreement implementation, held in Cambridge, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, from 7 to 9 March 2008, which brought together representatives of the secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions, including the Convention on Migratory Species. As part of the outcome of the workshop, the World Conservation Monitoring Centre was requested:

(a) To write a paper on preconditions for the harmonization of national reporting in order to help countries understand the rationale for and challenges to the harmonization of national reporting;

(b) To develop a concept paper on guidance for national information management.

2. Information portal and online reporting facilities

22. Another component of the knowledge management project is an internet portal that allows access to key information on the activities undertaken by the secretariats of the Convention on Migratory Species, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (the Ramsar Convention), the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds and the Indian Ocean – South-East Asian Marine Turtle Memorandum of Understanding. The information on the portal includes the articles of the agreements, resolutions and decisions of their governing bodies, strategic planning documents, lists of Parties and national focal point information. The portal is available at: <http://www.informea.org>. During the 2008 knowledge management workshop, it was agreed that the portal should be further developed as a tool for interoperable information management for the biodiversity-related conventions and agreements.

23. Under the same knowledge management project, UNEP carried out initial work with the secretariats of conventions and agreements to develop an online reporting tool. The tool would include not only an option to enable Parties to produce their national reports online, but also a generator to allow for the easy creation of other online reporting tools or questionnaires.

24. The World Conservation Monitoring Centre has continued to work with the Indian Ocean – South-East Asian Marine Turtle Memorandum of Understanding on the management of data on nesting and migration of marine turtles in that region for the interactive mapping system, which is the first of its kind in the world, and enables analysis of trends of these colonial organisms at both the local and regional level.

25. The World Conservation Monitoring Centre is also involved in implementation of the GEF-funded African-Eurasian Flyways Project (also known as the “Wings over Wetlands” project) by developing an online critical sites network portal to facilitate the identification of areas of particular relevance to the conservation of migratory waterbirds in the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement region.

26. The Centre has worked with the Convention on Migratory Species secretariat in its preparations for the development of indicators of progress on the conservation of migratory species, in the context of the targets established for 2010 by the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

27. The World Conservation Monitoring Centre will also assist the Convention on Migratory Species secretariat in analysing reports due for submission to the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting, to be held in December 2008.

F. Issue-based modules for the coherent implementation of biodiversity-related conventions

28. The joint UNEP and International Union for Conservation of Nature project on issue-based modules for coherent implementation of biodiversity-related conventions is known as “Tematea”. The project structures the multitude of commitments and obligations under regional and global biodiversity-related agreements in a logical, issue-based framework. There are currently six modules on priority issues for biodiversity: inland waters, biodiversity and climate change, invasive alien species, protected areas, sustainable use of biodiversity and access- and benefit-sharing. For each of these issues, the global biodiversity-related agreements (in particular the Convention on Migratory Species, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Ramsar Convention, the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (World Heritage Convention), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa), together with relevant regional biodiversity-related agreements, are screened and relevant obligations structured to allow for a more coherent approach towards their implementation.

29. The Tematea project is currently focusing on capacity-building activities, including national workshops, to support the use of the modules to promote national cooperation and communication between experts across conventions and sectors and to improve the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements at the national level. These activities help national experts to evaluate their existing national implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and to identify how such might be improved and supported, including through the development of improved coordination mechanisms or specific multifocal plans and project proposals. National workshops have been held in Cuba, Georgia, Norway, Peru and Seychelles, while more are planned in Africa and Europe later in 2008.

30. The project, including the modules and the results of the national capacity-building exercises, can be found online (<http://www.tematea.org>), where a downloadable version is also available for offline use. To ensure optimal use of the tool for national experts, the contents of the website are currently available in English, French, Russian and Spanish.

G. Adapting to climate change

31. At the eighth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species in November 2005, resolution 8.13 on climate change and migratory species was adopted. Based on this, the Convention secretariat was mandated to work to produce guidance that would help Parties to introduce adaptation measures to help to counteract the effects of climate change on migratory species. It also encourages the initiation of collaborative international research projects into the effects of climate change on migratory species and their habitats so as to understand better implications and appropriate policy responses.

32. The production of the publication “Migratory Species and Climate Change: Impacts of a changing environment on Wild Animals”, in conjunction with UNEP and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs of the Government of the United Kingdom, was aimed at raising awareness by highlighting case studies, assessing impacts and identifying possible solutions and mitigation measures of the effects of climate change on migratory species.

33. Through its GEF-funded project on the assessment of impacts of and adaptation to climate change in many regions and sectors, UNEP is enhancing scientific and technical capacities in over 45 countries, mostly in Africa.

34. UNEP is also assisting least developed countries by providing training and technical assistance in identifying priority activities for adapting to climate change. That training and assistance will enable Governments to incorporate adaptation into their sustainable development planning as part of their United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change national adaptation programmes of action.

35. In addition, the World Conservation Monitoring Centre has worked extensively on the potential impacts of climate change on biodiversity and plans to coordinate with partner organizations to produce generic adaptation tools and guidance over the coming biennium. Work under way includes an assessment of the potential impacts of biodiversity upon the European Natura 2000 protected areas network, and guidance for adaptation to these impacts.

H. UNEP-GEF Siberian crane wetland project

36. The UNEP-GEF Siberian crane wetland project is a collaborative initiative between China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation. It is implemented through a national executing agency in each of the four countries, a regional Flyway secretariat based in Moscow, a regional coordination unit and with staff based at the International Crane Foundation, the international executing agency. The project aims to develop a coordinated approach towards the conservation of a chain of internationally important wetlands along two flyways used by the critically endangered Siberian crane *Grus leucogeranus* and many other migratory species.

37. The main outcome will be the sustained ecological integrity of a network of globally important wetlands in Asia and the migratory waterbirds that depend thereon. This outcome will be reached through components at wetland sites at the national and regional levels. Site-level outputs will look at the management of globally significant flyway wetlands through legal protection, management plans, stakeholder participation, capacity-building, public awareness programmes and livelihood projects.

38. National-level activities are focusing on expanding the legislative and political framework for wetland protection and improving coordination of wetland conservation efforts within and beyond national borders. Regional-level activities focus on the development of wetland site networks, building capacity for the coordination of the flyway networks and applied field research in support of flyway conservation.

39. The project has been under way for one year and is implementing its revised phase two workplans, based on a mid-term review. The International Crane Foundation signed up as a member of the new East Asia-Australasia Flyway Partnership and presented relevant Project activities as part of the joint workplan for the partnership in 2007. The sixth meeting of the signatories to the Siberian Crane Memorandum of Understanding in May 2007 was a key event that included the launch of the Western and Central Asia site network. The regional training workshop on management planning brought together experts throughout the project and achieved its goals of sharing information on management planning, avian influenza and related issues. Progress on exchange programmes continued with experts from Yakutia, Russian Federation, visiting Poyang, China, for this workshop and Russian experts travelling to Kazakhstan for migratory waterbird monitoring. Although the imminent participation of the Islamic Republic of Iran as a member of the Convention on Migratory Species is significant, progress on national programme implementation remains behind schedule, mainly owing to continuing weak government management capacity at sites. Work in China is proceeding smoothly and on schedule on most aspects, as is the programme in Kazakhstan. Project management problems in Russia have been excessively long and seriously affected project performance in that country. New workplans have been agreed with the new national coordinating unit team in Moscow, particularly focusing on in-field support to the key protected wetland areas (former federal *zakazniks*) which now require local Government support.

40. General information on the project can be obtained from its website (<http://www.scwp.info>) and the Siberian crane flyway coordination website (<http://www.sibeflyway.org>).

I. UNEP-GEF project: Wings over Wetlands

41. The UNEP-GEF project on enhancing conservation of the critical network of sites required by migratory water birds on the African-Eurasian flyways, also known as Wings over Wetlands, is the largest initiative in the African-Eurasian region for the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their critical habitats. The project is a joint effort between GEF, Wetlands International, BirdLife International, the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement, the Ramsar Convention secretariat, the United Nations Office for Project Services, the World Conservation Monitoring Centre and a range of donors and local partners along the African-Eurasian flyways. Its core aim is to build the capacity of those responsible for planning and managing the conservation of migratory waterbirds and the critical sites along their flyways in Africa and Eurasia.

42. Migratory waterbirds and the complex network of wetland habitats upon which they rely to complete their life cycle are among the great wonders of nature and form a globally important biodiversity resource. Human activity is increasingly threatening their existence and destroying wetland habitats across the African-Eurasian region. The same process also endangers other plant and animal species, together with environmental resources and services vital to human well-being. Reversing the current deterioration of migratory waterbird habitats represents a huge challenge and tackling the problem therefore requires coordinated international action to deliver results at sites in many countries.

43. The project is divided into three components that together form the foundations of a strategic and catalytic approach to flyway conservation. This includes the development of a web-based tool, known as the “critical sites network tool”, which will provide unprecedented access to information on 300 migratory waterbird species, their migration routes and the key wetland sites that these birds use in the African-Eurasian region. A new flyway training and capacity-building framework is being developed in the context of the project, which will focus on topics related to flyway conservation and be a useful tool for

future training and capacity-building measures conducted throughout the African-Eurasian region. While the project area includes all 118 range States of the UNEP administered African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement, covering Africa, Europe, South-West Asia (including the Middle East and Central Asian States), Greenland and the Canadian archipelago, it focuses on building technical capacity, training and partnerships towards the conservation of critical sites for migratory waterbirds. Wings over Wetlands supports field projects in 12 countries, including Estonia, Gambia, Hungary, Lithuania, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Turkey, United Republic of Tanzania and Yemen. These focus on a range of issues such as community mobilization, management planning, ecotourism, field research, wetland restoration, control of invasive species, transboundary management, education and awareness and alternative livelihoods.

44. Wings over Wetlands is coordinated by a project coordination unit administered by the United Nations Office for Project Services, located in the offices of Wetlands International in Wageningen, the Netherlands. Four regional centres covering Western and Central Africa, Eastern and Southern Africa, the Middle East, and Central Asia and the Caucasus States, respectively, facilitate the coordination of project activities within each respective subregion.

45. Wings over Wetlands is the first United Nations project on flyway-scale conservation and as a pilot initiative has significance beyond the Africa-Eurasian region. The critical sites network portal and monitoring tools will have the potential to influence wetland and waterbird conservation practices at the global level. In addition, there is considerable interest among the conservation community towards the project and, in many cases, high expectations also. From the beginning, however, the resources allocated to the project were insufficient for the size and complexity of the initiative. The initial proposal involved a combined \$20 million budget, which was gradually reduced to \$12 million during the extended design and approval process, without adequate adjustments to project deliverables. The GEF contribution of \$9 million fell to \$6 million.

46. The \$12 million project document was eventually approved in 2006 with only \$7.5 million available, on the optimistic assumption that co-financing would materialize in the course of implementation. A globally-relevant pilot project therefore commenced with an inadequate budget and funding uncertainties that have restricted implementation and impact. The commitment by the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement to raise \$1.3 million in co-financing has not materialized fully and 60 per cent of this total remains lacking. In addition, other partners were unable to secure all funds needed and therefore €1 million is lacking. The foreseen shortfall will lead to cutbacks in the implementation of the project. The Partnership is seeking additional funds to fill the gap and to ensure that the project will be implemented fully. Any support in this respect is welcome. Further information about the project can be obtained at <http://www.wingsoverwetlands.org>.

J. Capacity-building related to implementation of multilateral environmental agreements in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries

47. UNEP has been designated as the overall coordinator and facilitator of a European Commission-funded programme related to the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries. The programme will facilitate and support capacity-building in such countries to enable them to better implement and enforce their obligations under the various multilateral environmental agreements to which they are Parties, including the Convention on Migratory Species. The programme will be executed by a number of collaborating partners, namely, the Commission of the African Union, the Caribbean Community secretariat, the secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, the Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, together with the Chemicals Branch of the UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics, the Quick Start Programme under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the UNEP Risø Centre on Energy, Climate and Sustainable Development.

48. The programme promotes environmental sustainability in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries within the context of the seventh Millennium Development Goal and in line with the international obligations and related commitments under multilateral environmental agreements signed by the respective countries. Expected outcomes of the programme include building the capacity of African, Caribbean and Pacific countries to implement their respective obligations under multilateral environmental agreements and honour related commitments. This will result in the sound management of the environment and natural resources of African, Caribbean and Pacific countries. The programme will lead towards poverty alleviation and sustainable development, focusing on, among other things, mitigating the adverse effects of climate change, loss of biodiversity, drought, land degradation, chemicals, hazardous wastes and other threats to the environment.

49. In West Asia, UNEP provided technical input to the Yemeni Environment Protection Authority on implementation of the Convention on Migratory Species in the country. In addition, a draft project proposal on developing a strategy for implementation was prepared jointly with that Agency and presented at the Convention meeting held in Bonn, Germany, on 17 January 2007 for potential funding that has not yet been realized. Further follow-up is planned. Furthermore, UNEP provides support to the Convention secretariat in facilitating the accession of Qatar to the Convention. The same support is aimed to be provided to further West Asian countries.

50. The Division of Environmental Law and Conventions, in conjunction with the secretariat of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement, organized and conducted a two-day capacity-building workshop on negotiations in Antananarivo from 13 to 14 September prior to the meeting of the Contracting Parties to that Convention. The workshop aimed to improve negotiation skills of national focal points and other government officials dealing with the implementation of the Agreement; to increase their understanding of how and when to intervene and how brackets were used in resolutions and recommendations; to increase their ability to contribute to their Governments' positions in multilateral negotiations; and to enhance their awareness and technical knowledge by identifying ways and means of overcoming challenges in multilateral environmental agreement negotiations. The participants were from Anglophone African countries and consisted of 29 government officials and representatives of non-governmental organizations working on wildlife conservation.

K. Compliance with and enforcement of multilateral environmental agreements

51. UNEP continues to assist countries to tackle challenges brought about by the implementation and enforcement of multilateral environmental agreements at various levels and has produced a manual on compliance with and enforcement of multilateral environmental agreements. In 2007, UNEP produced an interactive online version of manual, together with a CD-ROM on compliance and enforcement to enable wider dissemination of the manual to stakeholders. The manual is intended for use by a wide audience, including treaty negotiators, legislators, lawyers, police and Customs officers and is intended to be a useful resource for teaching and for research. It is structured as an annotated commentary on the UNEP guidelines on compliance with and enforcement of multilateral environmental agreements (adopted by the UNEP Governing Council by its decision SS.VII/4) and uses clear, simple language. It includes explanatory text, case studies, checklists, references to additional resources and annexes with supplementary information. The online manual can be downloaded from the UNEP website (http://www.unep.org/dec/docs/UNEP_Manual.pdf).

L. Outreach and communications

52. The Division of Environmental Law and Conventions has contributed to the production of the Convention family guide that details the history, structure, activities of the Convention and its family of agreements. The guide is divided into seven categories dealing with the species protected through the Convention and its instruments. The guide was officially launched in Bonn during the thirty-second meeting of the Convention Standing

Committee in November 2007 by the Executive Secretary of the Convention and the UNEP delegate to the meeting.

M. Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building

53. The Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building aims at a coherent, coordinated and effective delivery of environmental capacity-building and technical support at all levels and by all actors, including UNEP, in response to well-defined country priorities and needs. It complements and enhances the more traditional activity areas of UNEP intervention such as assessment, environmental policy and law, environmental institution-building and promotion of cleaner production systems.

54. In support of the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan, UNEP has developed a database inventory of its capacity-building and technology activities across all UNEP divisions, including those undertaken directly by its regional offices. The database is arranged by category (according to the 13 cross-cutting issues and 19 thematic areas identified in the Bali Strategic Plan); by geographical focus (region and State); and by type of capacity-building (systemic, institutional, individual). UNEP will launch an online public access version and a Government portal will enable designated Governments to submit official requests for assistance to relevant UNEP divisions. The database will also help UNEP to report on its activities related to Government requests and its implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan.

N. Administrative and financial support to the Convention

1. Financial contributions

55. UNEP divisions have provided total direct financial support of \$211,150 during the period 2006–2008 towards activities under the Convention on Migratory Species and its agreements.

2. Administrative issues

56. During 2008 the Executive Director of UNEP established a regular consultative process between UNEP and the heads of the UNEP multilateral environmental agreements through a management team. The process has enabled the heads of multilateral environmental agreements and UNEP to tackle a wide range of issues relating to their respective roles and responsibilities and in particular administrative issues with a view to improving the services provided by UNEP and the United Nations Office at Nairobi. In the framework of this consultative process, the Convention had put forward proposals to improve the administrative coordination between the Convention and UNEP.

3. Personnel issues

57. The recruitment of an experienced Convention Administrative/Fund Management Officer was finalized in 2008 after an extensive recruitment process jointly undertaken between UNEP and the Convention. The new tasks will be, among other things, to streamline the administrative procedures and to improve the financial reporting of Parties to the Convention.

58. The Human Resources Management Service of the United Nations Office at Nairobi has classified seven jobs for the Convention and five vacant posts were advertised through the Galaxy system.