



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme



14TH MEETING OF THE CMS SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL

Bonn, Germany, 14-17 March 2007

CMS/ScC14/Inf.14
Agenda Items 3, 4 & 7

REPORT OF THE CMS MEETING ON PRIORITIES IN IMPLEMENTING THE PROGRAMME OF WORK 2007-8 PRESENTATIONS BY THE CMS SECRETARIAT

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Report of the CMS meeting on Priorities in Implementing the Programme of Work 2007-8 Presentations by the CMS Secretariat 27 September 2006, UN Campus, Bonn

Attendance

1. Present - see attendance list

Introductions and Welcome

2. Executive Secretary Rob Hepworth called the meeting to order and asked that a minute's silence be observed in memory of the victims of the WWF helicopter crash in Nepal. Oliver Schall (Germany) as representative of the host government and depository then welcomed the participants to the new UN premises.

Executive Secretary

3. Mr Hepworth introduced the document "CMS on the Move to 2010 - Priorities in Implementing the Programme of Work 2007-8" which contained the Power Point Presentations to be made by the Secretariat staff and selected documents prepared for the Standing Committee. The document included a list of priority actions which had been costed and which were in need of sponsors.
4. The budget settlement at COP8 had been quite favourable, but Scenario 3 adopted by the Parties still required the Secretariat to raise additional funds to implement the Strategic Plan. The shortfall was estimated at €1.5 million, of which 25-30% had been found through private sponsorship and voluntary contributions but a minimum of €1m had still to be raised to fund activities in 2006-8.
5. CMS Strategic Plan had identified 84 activities. In implementing the Plan, the human resources of the Secretariat needed to be harmonised with matching finances, while the Convention had to bear in mind the need for geographic and species balance of its activities. There were gaps in the Americas and Asia, but the range of species was broadly in line with the Appendices. Attention had to be given to flagship or keystone species which were either charismatic or were an essential element of their ecosystem to increase the impact of activities. CMS also had to complement other MEAs.
6. CMS had played a leading role in reacting to the Avian 'flu alert in cooperation with AEWA and FAO, stressing that the poultry industry was also a cause of the outbreak and that wild birds were victims as well as vectors of the disease. CMS had published information documents and was developing a clearing house mechanism for prompt response to future outbreaks through AIWEb.

Scientific and Technical Officer

7. Mr. Barbieri outlined the role and structure of the Scientific Council (ScC) within the CMS organisational and policymaking structure. He explained that the Strategic Plan set out 4 objectives subdivided into 11 sub-objectives and 61 specific and measurable activities, covering species status assessment, combating threats and developing

management tools, with an aim to have management plans for all Appendix I species in time.

8. Mr Barbieri described the Small Grant Programme and the different species and geographic regions which had benefited to date. Previously the programme had been funded through the use of budget surpluses but would in future depend entirely on donations and voluntary contributions. ScC13 had endorsed nineteen projects, which were in different states of development; some were just outlines, others had been fully elaborated and costed.
9. The ScC had 73 national members plus 5 (soon to be 8) appointed experts. Of these 57 were eligible for financial support. The budget available for the ScC14 was €46.6k an estimated deficit of €86k. The estimated cost of ScC15 was €143k and there was no provision in the budget. The Secretariat agreed to make available a list of all eligible Sc Councillors and the Netherlands' representative explained that there was a mechanism for funding such delegates through the appropriate Dutch embassy.

Deputy Executive Secretary

10. Mr El Kabiri outlined two examples of CMS activity in Africa, concentrating on the Sahelo-Saharan Antelope programme, mentioning the sad death of the Nigerien coordinator, and the West African Turtle MoU.
11. In response to questions from the floor, Mr El Kabiri briefly outlined other CMS activities in Africa relating to Monk seals and turtles on the east coast, and confirmed that the Secretariat was investigating reports of a hunting incident which indicated that 20 addax had been killed in Niger. Dr Beudals (Belgium) agreed that VIP hunting parties were a problem which underlined the need for diplomatic action by CMS to try to find a solution with a view to ensuring that this conservation project should remain viable and ultimately successful. Mrs Herrenschmidt (France) added that hunters should be directly informed about the management actions being undertaken and about the endangered status of the antelopes. For example, hunters and other appropriate interest groups should be engaged as partners in dialogue meetings and discussions

Inter-Agency Liaison Officer

12. Ms Deda detailed activities relating to extending the webpage including the creation of a media page written in a more journalistic style and explained the innovation of CMS Ambassadors (Kuki Gallmann and Peter Johan Schei) and Patrons (HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco).
13. The Secretariat was producing literature regarding Avian 'flu, for the private sector and children and had launched campaigns for world migratory bird day (with AEWA) and with TUI the Year of the Dolphin 2007. Two "manuals" were being elaborated, one on dolphins through the UNESCO schools network and with UNEP backing the CMS Family Guide. A Wildlife Watching and Tourism brochure had been produced and work was progressing on a similar brochure on Climate Change.
14. The Secretariat was collaborating with a range of other MEAs and bodies and had concluded Partnership Agreements with a strong emphasis on effective action. Recent collaboration with UNCCD had led to useful contacts with the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO). CMS was also engaged fully in the Biodiversity Liaison Group, working to common aims for 2010 targets, outreach, indicators, CBD protected areas and common approaches to data management.

15. CMS was also engaging the private sector to find new sources of finance and broaden the Convention's partners beyond the already converted. Promising results had been achieved through contacts with the travel firm TUI.

Signing Ceremony – CMS/WAZA

16. Prior to lunch, Mr Hepworth signed a Partnership Agreement with Dr Peter Dollinger of WAZA.

CMS Project Portfolio

17. Mr Hepworth explained the SONAR 2010 online reporting system developed from a model introduced by IOSEA and Mr Addis outlined how this linked to the single entry point Knowledge Management for Biodiversity system instigated by UNEP. Mr Hepworth also described again the AIWEb CHM.
18. Ms Deda outlined the proposal for an Article IV Gorilla Agreement (Ngagi Agreement) which would represent a contribution to CMS's collaborative work with GrASP; case studies of regional collaboration with UNCCD and the Year of the Dolphin project working with other UN bodies, NGOs, national government and the private sector.
19. After the TUI "vox pop" video on dolphins was shown, Ms Lenarz described the activities to be undertaken under the Year of the Dolphin, including the webpage and the possible use of advertising space on tetrapacks.

Information and Capacity Building Officer

20. Mr Rilla Manta illustrated the CMS representation of parties across the biogeographical regions and reported that it appeared that Angola and Madagascar might be close to acceding which would bring membership to 100. Concerted efforts were being made to recruit key non-Parties. Ms Thompson (UK) suggested that as the P.R.C. was promoting the Beijing Olympics as the green games, this might provide an opportunity to persuade China to join.

Agreement Secretariats

21. Messrs Lenten (AEWA), Streit (Eurobats) and Stempel (ASCOBANS) gave brief presentations regarding their respective Agreements. Mr Lenten distributed a folder with a portfolio of 25 AEWA projects in need of finance. Mr Streit sought support for forthcoming publications (e.g. bats and wind turbines). Mr Stempel described activities in the Baltic and North Seas and the proposal to extend the ASCOBANS agreement to Irish, French, Spanish and Portuguese waters in the Atlantic.

Agreements Officer

22. Standing in for Mr Glowka who was delayed, Mr Hepworth stated that the budget for agreement development was only €192k for the triennium.
23. Mr Glowka then arrived and ran through a number of Agreement related activities accorded very high and high priority in the Strategic Plan, including the servicing of existing MoUs (eg Siberian Crane, where co-funding was available through ICF) and the development of new MoUs identified by COP (eg West African elephants).
24. Excellent progress was reported on two new MoUs including the Pacific Islands Cetacean MoU and with considerable support from CMS newcomer Kazakhstan and enthusiastic participation from 70 experts, the Saiga Antelope MoU.

25. At various stages of development were MoUs on African Turtles (requiring a meeting of signatories), the aquatic warbler, West African elephants (12 of 13 range states signed up and IUCN species survival group interest and funding), sharks (potentially a global agreement), West African small cetaceans, African-Eurasian raptors (£120,000 from UK), Great Bustard (€40k from Austria), slender-billed curlew (Action plan to be circulated), dugongs (being taken forward by Australia and Thailand) and with pressure from Range States, an initiative for the snow leopard.

Participants

26. Mr van Klaveren (Monaco) praised the Secretariat for its contacts with other interested parties and developing networks and announced that €10k would be made available for the gorilla project and €10k for the West African MoU. He hoped to find further funding in 2007. Mr Hepworth announced that the Italian government had promised €212k for the coming year and €60k annually thereafter for outreach and project work. These resources would include a contribution to several activities under the Year of the Dolphin, preparation of action plans for Appendix I species and a new project on the effect of alien species on migratory animals. Mrs Herrenschmidt (France) said that some of the projects might interest funding sources in France, especially the *Fonds français pour l'environnement mondial* (French world environment fund). Ms Prideaux (WDCS) outlined some initiatives of her organisation in Brazil and the Pacific. WDCS were contributing in cash and kind €125k towards the implementation of the CMS/SPREP Pacific Islands Cetacean Agreement and a further €60k towards the Year of the Dolphin.

Conclusion

27. Mr Blencowe (UK) as chairman of the Standing Committee thanked the Secretariat staff for their presentations and for organising the meeting and hoped that the Parties would work hard to implement the strategies agreed at COP.

Fuller details of the presentations (including the power point presentation slides) are included in the meeting document "CMS on the Move to 2010 - Priorities in Implementing the Programme of Work 2007-8"