


**Convention on the
Conservation of Migratory
Species of Wild Animals**

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REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT**Introduction**

1. This report has been prepared by the Secretariat for the Seventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as required under the terms of the Convention. It gives an overview of the Secretariat's work from 1 December 1999 to the present, and covers certain aspects of the implementation of the Convention not dealt with in other conference papers.

I. Status of the Convention**A. Membership**

2. Membership of the Convention has grown steadily since its entry into force on 1 November 1983 to reach 80 Parties as of 1 September 2002; a further 18 States are participating in various CMS Agreements without having joined the parent Convention. Though the rate of growth in membership has slowed in 2002, the number of Parties has increased by nearly 25 percent since COP6 and over 45 percent since the beginning of 1999.

3. The 15 new Parties to have joined CMS since COP6 (listed in reverse order, by date of entry into force) are: Libyan Arab Jamahiriya (1.09.2002), Lithuania (1.02.2002), Sao Tome and Principe (1.12.2001), Cyprus (1.11.2001), Albania (1.09.2001), Gambia (1.08.2001), Malta (1.06.2001), Republic of Moldova (1.04.2001), Jordan (1.03.2001), Tajikistan (1.02.2001), Croatia (1.10.2000), New Zealand (1.10.2000), Uganda (1.08.2000), Georgia (1.06.2000) and Congo (1.1.2000). A number of countries are known to have finalised their internal ratification or accession procedures or are presently in the process of ratifying or acceding to CMS.

4. The distribution of Parties across the different regions is as follows (increase since COP6 shown in parentheses): Europe 36 (+7), Africa 26 (+5), Asia 9 (+2), the Americas and the Caribbean 6 (+0) and Oceania 3 (+1). The encouraging rate of growth continues apace in Europe and Africa, but is slightly offset by the continuing low level of participation in Asia-Oceania and the Americas, which are the regions with the least representation in CMS.

5. The number of signatory States that have yet to deposit instruments of ratification has fallen to just four: Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Jamaica, and Madagascar. The Depositary is presently in communication with the authorities of Côte d'Ivoire, having recently been informed that the Government of Côte d'Ivoire adopted a decree to ratify CMS, already on 17 August 2000.

6. Recruitment efforts continue to focus on those countries identified as priorities by the CMS Standing Committee, as follows: North America: United States, Canada, Mexico; South America: Brazil; Europe: Russian Federation; Africa: Algeria; and Asia: China, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Republic of Korea, Thailand, Turkey, Vietnam. The Secretariat has communicated with all of these countries, and many other non-Parties, during the reporting period (i.e. through missions/briefing sessions, direct contacts at meetings, and correspondence). The German Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in its capacity as Depositary of the Convention, has also made formal approaches with many countries through diplomatic channels, most recently prior to COP7. The Depositary has assured the Secretariat that it will make available, in electronic form, the official texts of the Convention in the relevant languages, which will facilitate these recruitment efforts.

7. So far, there is only limited progress to show for these interventions, however some of these non-Parties are now participating in Agreements under the Convention. The Secretariat remains confident that a breakthrough will come in due course, as countries become better informed of the advantages that the Convention brings, as well as recognize their own responsibilities vis-à-vis the conservation of biodiversity on a global scale.

B. Amendments to Appendices I and II

8. The Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties adopted proposals to include seven species in Appendix I: the Manatee (i.e. populations between Honduras and Panama), Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Strange-tailed Tyrant, Saffron-cowled Blackbird, Entre Rios Seedeater, Chestnut Seedeater, and Grey and Chestnut Seedeater. Thirty-one species were added to Appendix II, including seven species of petrels, five marine mammals, the Whale Shark, and 16 species of Sturgeons and Paddlefish. A complete list of all the species included in the CMS Appendices appears in document UNEP/CMS/Inf. 7.8.

9. On the occasion of COP7, several marine mammals have been proposed for inclusion in the Appendices, among them: six species of large whales (by Australia), Amazonian and West African Manatees (by Peru and Ghana, respectively), as well as the South American Sea lion and the Fur seal (by Peru). Australia has also proposed the listing in Appendix I and II of the Great white shark, the only fish species under consideration.

10. Among the terrestrial mammals, Mongolia has nominated among others the Asiatic Wild ass and the endangered Bactrian camel. The Saiga antelope, proposed by Uzbekistan, is already the focus of a Memorandum of Understanding and Action Plan under development in recent months. Paraguay, Mongolia and the Philippines have each proposed the listing of five bird species (mostly in Appendix I), while Chile and Peru have nominated a further four bird species from Latin America¹. The Turtle dove, proposed by Senegal, is the sole bird candidate from the African region.

C. Reports from Parties

11. Parties that are Range States for species listed in Appendix I and II are required to report at least six months prior to each meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the measures they are taking to implement the provisions of the Convention for these species. As of the time of writing, the Secretariat had received national reports from approximately 35 Parties, most of them having been prepared using the new reporting format which was introduced on a trial basis early in 2002. The new format, incorporating any necessary amendments, will be proposed for adoption at COP7 (document UNEP/CMS/Conf. 7.6.2 refers).

¹ The Secretariat's recommendation that a proposal be submitted for listing the Amsterdam Albatross on Appendix II to assure that the *Agreement on the Conservation of Albatross and Petrels* meets, on its entry into force, the formal requirements of an Article IV(3) AGREEMENT under CMS, was not pursued by the Scientific Councillors of two of the lead countries on behalf of their Governments.

II. Secretariat arrangements

A. Premises

12. The Secretariat has been in its current premises in Bonn -- shared with secretariats of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Desertification Convention, as well as the headquarters of the United Nations Volunteers and the United Nations Information Centre -- for nearly six years. This arrangement has conferred a number of tangible benefits to CMS, including a more cost-effective telecommunications and mail delivery system, access to an advanced computer network, and better integration within the UN system. The CMS Secretariat participates in the Common Premises Management Committee and is involved in other operational matters, on behalf of CMS and its co-located Agreements.

B. Headquarters Agreement

13. After intensive negotiations lasting since mid-1996, a Headquarters Agreement for the Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species is expected to be signed on the occasion of COP7, by the Minister of Environment of Germany, the Executive Director of UNEP and the Executive Secretary of CMS. (Document UNEP/CMS/Conf. 7.14.1 refers).

C. Agreements Unit

14. The formal administrative integration of the secretariats of AEWA, ASCOBANS and EUROBATS between July 2000 and January 2001 has changed the organizational structure, as well as the work and functioning of the Convention Secretariat. Document UNEP/CMS/Conf.7.14.2 (Institutional Arrangements: Co-location of Agreement Secretariats) describes in more detail the progress made in this regard.

D. Secretariat Personnel

15. In the area of administration, one of the remarkable achievements since COP6 has been the successful integration of many new staff members in the Secretariat's ranks, notably:

- Ms. Jasmin Kanza in August 2000 as Administrative/Fund Management Officer, replacing Ms. Bothena Bendahmane, who returned to UNEP-Nairobi;
- Mr. Marco Barbieri in September 2000, as Scientific and Technical Support Officer, replacing Ms. Karen Weaver who had filled this post on a temporary basis (following the departure and subsequent tragic death of Mr. Pablo Canevari);
- Mr. Lyle Glowka, recruited to the new post of Agreement Development and Servicing Officer, in January 2002;
- Ms. Enkhtuya Sereenen as Finance Assistant in February 2002, replacing Mr.Thilo Schliebener, who returned to the private sector after six years of service to CMS;
- Ms. Veronika Lenarz, as Information Clerk, in May 2002, replacing Ms. Claudia Schmidt-Packmohr, who continues to do media work for the Secretariat on a free-lance basis; and
- Mr. Nalanda Wijeratne, as Clerk in April 2002, replacing Linette Lamare who was the successful candidate to fill a new CMS secretarial post.

16. During the reporting period, the Secretariat has benefited greatly from a number of short-term internships and consultancies, as well as temporary administrative support from UNON. It is hoped that the internship programme will be extended and expanded in the future.

17. Since COP6, the Secretariat has said farewell to a number of staff members who had been seconded by their Government or were attached to the Secretariat through other arrangements, namely, Mr. Robert Vagg (now back with the UK Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) and Mr. Suhel Al-Janabi -- both of whom remain involved in CMS-related activities.

18. At present, there is only one vacant post in the Secretariat -- that of Information and Capacity Building Officer, which was vacated by Ms. Beatriz Torres in March 2002. The recruitment action for that post is well underway, but it has been suspended temporarily in view of preparations for COP7 and other mitigating circumstances. It is expected that the post will be filled before the end of the year.

19. In addition to bringing on board the core staff members of the CMS Secretariat and arranging for additional temporary support, successful recruitment actions were carried out for the executive officer and secretary posts in each of the co-located Agreement secretariats (a total of six posts).

20. The full complement of CMS staff (excluding short-term interns/consultants) is listed below and is also reflected in the organization chart found in Annex 1:

CMS Secretariat Personnel		
Staff Member	Position	Nationality
Arnulf Müller-Helmbrecht	Executive Secretary	Germany
Douglas Hykle	Deputy Executive Secretary	Canada
Lyle Glowka	Agreement Development and Servicing Officer	United States
Marco Barbieri	Scientific and Technical Support Officer	Italy
<i>Vacant</i>	Information and Capacity Building Officer	
Jasmin Kanza	Administrative/Fund Management Officer	Tanzania
Patricia Nolan Moss	Personal Assistant	New Zealand
Jeanybeth Mina	Administrative Assistant	Philippines
Enkhtuya Sereenen	Finance Assistant	Mongolia
Liam Addis	Computer Operations Clerk	United Kingdom
Veronika Lenarz	Information Clerk	Germany
Linette Eitz Lamare	Secretary	India
Nalanda Wijeratne	Clerk	Sri Lanka

21. The exceptional progress made in the personnel area is tempered only by the disappointment that, so far, neither of the Junior Professional Officer posts that Parties were requested to fill after COP6 has materialised. These relate to JPO posts intended for the Information and Capacity Building unit and the Administration, Finance and Project Management unit.

22. After the former system through which Governments seconded personnel to United Nations agencies was disrupted by a decision of the UN General Assembly, the two countries whose responsible Ministries had provided valuable staff members to CMS discontinued this kind of support. The German Federal Ministry of Environment has officially informed the Secretariat that no further secondments will be provided, while the UK Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has not yet responded to an informal query in this regard. The Executive Secretary approached the Minister of Environment of the Principality of Monaco to encourage the provision of a liaison officer between CMS and the ACCOBAMS secretariat; although this has not materialised, Monaco is generously hosting the secretariat of that Agreement.

III. Work of the Secretariat

A. *Support to development and implementation of CMS Agreements, and species-related projects and publications*

23. As Secretariat activities in support of CMS Agreements are reported on in more detail in other documents – notably UNEP/CMS/Conf. 7.9.1 (Review of Article IV Agreements already concluded), UNEP/CMS/Conf. 7.9.2 (Review of Article IV Agreements under development) and UNEP/CMS/Conf. 7.10 (Review of Implementation of the Strategic Plan 2000-2005) – only the essential points are mentioned here.

BIRDS

Preparatory work leading to the conclusion of the *Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of the Middle-European Population of the Great Bustard* and associated Action Plan (October 2000);

Support towards the conclusion of the *Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels* (Cape Town, January 2001);

Support of the second meeting of the Slender-billed Curlew Working Group, within the framework of the *Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Slender-billed Curlew* (Kiev, April 2001);

Support of the Slender-billed Curlew Working Group to produce a consolidated international action plan for the species (to be reviewed by the 12th CMS Scientific Council and the Range States (2001 and 2002);

Co-organization of the Fourth Meeting of Range States to the *Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Siberian Crane* (Baraboo, May 2001)

Co-organization of the first consultative meeting of Range State experts of the Central Asian -Indian migratory bird flyway (Tashkent, August 2001)

Ongoing cooperation with BirdLife International for the preparation and consultation with Range States of a memorandum of understanding for the Aquatic warbler

Secretariat-facilitated projects:

- Slender-billed Curlew survey of the Gulf coast of Iran (completed 2000);
- Conservation actions for the Ruddy-headed Goose (*Chloephaga rubidiceps*) in the austral region of Argentina and Chile (completed 2001);
- Winter census of High Andean Flamingos (completed 2001);
- Survey for the Slender-billed Curlew in coastal areas along the Black Sea in Ukraine (completed 2001);
- Promotion of the conservation of the Eastern Sarus Crane and the habitats on which they depend in Cambodia (completed 2002);
- Status overview and recommendations for the Central Asian population of *Oxyura leucocephala* (in progress);
- Threatened migratory Grassland birds in Argentina: an approach to habitat use at local and landscape scales (in progress);
- Conservation of the Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca* (in progress).

Publications:

Conservation Measures for the Siberian Crane - 2nd Edition. CMS Technical Series Publication No. 7 (2002);

*Action Plan for the Corncrake *Crex crex** (July 2000);

*Action Plan for the Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni**. (July 2000).

TERRESTRIAL MAMMALS

Preparatory work, in collaboration with WWF International, leading to the conclusion of the *Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation and Restoration of the Bukhara Deer* (Dushanbe, May 2002);

Preparatory work, in collaboration with Russian Academy of Science/MAB Programme, to develop a Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of the Saiga Antelope including the co-sponsorship of an international workshop (Elista, Russian Federation, May 2002).

Secretariat-facilitated projects:

Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes survey in Chad (completed 2001);

Building of an observatory for the study and observation of the Huemul Deer (*Hippocamelus bisulcus*) (completed 2001).

Preparatory work, in collaboration with IRSNB and ONCFS, leading to the approval in April 2002 of the FFEM Project (France) on the conservation of endangered Sahelo-Saharan ungulates; preparatory work, in collaboration with UNEP/UNON for the implementation of the FFEM Global Project in 2003 (in progress)

MARINE MAMMALS

Facilitate the organization of a workshop on the conservation and management of small cetaceans along the African coast (Conakry, Guinea, May 2000);

Facilitate the organization of the first session of the Meeting of the Parties to *Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area* (Monaco, February 2002);

Facilitate the organization of the *Second International Conference on Marine Mammals of Southeast Asia* (Dumaguete, Philippines, July 2002).

Secretariat-facilitated projects:

- Assessment of the conservation status of the humpback dolphin (*Sousa teuzii*) and other cetaceans in Senegalese and Gambian waters (completed 2001);
- Survey of marine mammals in the Gulf of Tonkin (completed 2001);
- Survey of the exploitation, distribution and natural history of Cetaceans in Ghana and Togo (in progress).

Publications:

A Survey of the Conservation Status of Cetaceans in Senegal, the Gambia and Guinea-Bissau (September 2000);

Review of the conservation Status of Small Cetaceans in Southern South America (November 2000);

Report of the 3rd Workshop for Coordinated Research and Conservation of the Franciscana dolphin (*Pontoporia blainvillei*) in the Southwestern Atlantic (November 2000);

Small cetacean: Distribution, Behaviour, Migration and Threats - a Review (in progress)

MARINE TURTLES

Organization of an intergovernmental meeting leading to the adoption of the *Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia* (Manila, June 2001);

Facilitation of a national marine turtle training / policy development workshop in Vietnam (July 2001);

Steering committee for the First Mediterranean Conference on Marine Turtles (Rome, October 2001);

Organization of an intergovernmental meeting to finalise a Conservation Plan linked to the *Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for Marine Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa* (Nairobi, May 2002).

Secretariat-facilitated projects:

- By-Catch Survey and Olive Ridley Turtle Tagging Programme, Sri Lanka (completed 2002)
- Population genetics of Southeast Asian and Western Pacific Green turtles, *Chelonia mydas* (completed 2002)
- Study of the distribution and migration pattern of the Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) population nesting at Poilão, Guinea Bissau (completed 2002)
- Development of a Web-based interface for presenting information relevant to marine turtle conservation in the Indian Ocean-Australasian region (Phase II) - in progress

Publications:

Conservation Measures for Marine Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa. (Bilingual)
CMS Technical Series Publication No. 5 (2000)

Biogeography and Conservation of Marine Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa. (Bilingual)
CMS Technical Series No. 6 (2001)

Contribution to *Journal of International Wildlife Law and Policy: The Convention on Migratory Species and Other Instruments Relevant to Marine Turtle Conservation: Pros and Cons* (2002)

Proceedings of the First Meeting of Signatory States to the *Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for Marine Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa* (Nairobi, May 2002) - in preparation

B. Other meetings serviced by the Secretariat

Standing Committee

24. The Standing Committee met in Bonn twice during the reporting period, in September 2000 and in December 2001. The issues discussed and the results of these meetings are covered in more detail in the relevant reports of the meetings, and in the Standing Committee Chair's report to the COP (document UNEP/CMS/Conf. 7.5.2). The Committee will meet immediately prior to the Conference of the Parties, on 17 September 2002, and a brief oral report will be delivered to the conference.

Scientific Council

25. The Scientific Council held its intersessional meeting in Edinburgh, United Kingdom, from 2-4 May 2001, at the kind invitation of Scottish Natural Heritage. The meeting was attended by over 50 Councillors and observers. The Council's activities are summarised in the report of the meeting and will be elaborated on further by the Chairman of the Scientific Council, Dr. Colin Galbraith, in his report to the Conference of the Parties. The Secretariat has been in regular communication with the Chairman throughout the triennium in order to advance the Council's work.

C. *Publicity and promotional activities*

26. Efforts to promote the Convention have continued, aided in part by the production of new information materials and presentations and/or written reports delivered at conferences in Africa, the Americas, central and eastern Europe, and Oceania. Secretariat staff attended on a selective basis meetings arranged by other international and national organisations in order to promote the Convention and related Agreements, to strengthen co-operation, and to consult with representatives of Parties, non-Parties and other organisations on matters of mutual concern.

27. Perhaps the most visible enhancement to the CMS information programme has been the complete redesign of the CMS web site (<http://www.wcmc.org.uk/cms/>), in order to provide an aesthetically appealing presentation and improved content. The redesign and upgrading of the texts is still in progress. Not only has the Secretariat benefitted by having had this work done cost-effectively, it has provided valuable on-the-job training for the responsible student-intern, Mr. Florian Keil. It is clear, however, that the continued maintenance and future expansion of the Web site requires resources currently not available to the Secretariat.

28. A further fundamental transformation of the Web site will be undertaken in the last trimester of 2002, hand-in-hand with the implementation of the CMS Information Management Plan (document UNEP/CMS/Conf. 7.6 refers). A wealth of additional information will be made available on species, conservation activities in CMS Parties, and other relevant themes through work that is in the process of being finalised in cooperation with the UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre. The CMS Web site is linked with those of four other global biodiversity-related conventions through a common home page:

<http://www.biodiv.org/convention/partners-websites.asp>

29. The Secretariat has continued production of a range of printed materials as well:

- The technical reports produced during the reporting period are mentioned elsewhere in this document.
- Six issues (nos. 10-15) of the CMS Bulletin were circulated between April 2000 and July 2002, providing information on the latest developments in the Convention. The Bulletin is distributed in English, French and Spanish to approximately 1,200 interested governmental and non-governmental organizations and individuals. (The database maintained by the secretariat contains nearly 3,500 records.) The frequency of production is still less than the desired target of about three issues per year, however the improvements made to the CMS Web site have partly compensated for the shortfall.
- An attractively redesigned information pack is used to respond to queries about the Convention from individuals and organisations; increasingly such queries are referred to the CMS Web site.

30. Other *ad hoc* vehicles to present CMS to wider audiences include a mobile exhibit (currently being revised), PowerPoint presentations, and periodic press releases -- some of which were prepared and distributed with the collaboration of UNEP's Communications and Public Information office.

31. Still pending is the development of a coherent communications strategy, which would evaluate all of the information materials used by CMS, identify gaps and overlaps, and devise new ways of reaching important target audiences. Regrettably, little progress has been made in this area over the past triennium, and any future initiatives await the recruitment of a new Information Officer. Special attention should be given to the preparation, on a more regular basis, of topical press releases and improvement of multi-media presentational materials.

D. Other documentation prepared by the Secretariat

- Among the other publications and reports produced and circulated during the triennium were:
- Proceedings of the Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Cape Town, 1999);
- Reports of the 22nd and 23rd meetings of the Standing Committee;
- Report of the tenth meeting of the Scientific Council;
- Numerous reports to other intergovernmental fora (eg. Bern Convention, CBD, CITES, IWC, Ramsar, UNEP etc.);
- List of National Focal Points (latest edition September 2002) -- document UNEP/CMS/Inf.7.3;
- List of Scientific Councillors (latest edition September 2002) -- document UNEP/CMS/Inf. 7.4;
- List of Parties (as of 1 September 2002) -- document UNEP/CMS/Inf. 7.1;
- Map of Parties and Countries participating in Agreements and MoUs (as of 1 September 2002);
- List of common names (in Latin, English, French, Spanish and German) of species included in the Appendices (latest edition August 2002) – document UNEP/CMS/Inf. 7.9;
- List of Range States of species included in CMS Appendix I and II (document UNEP/CMS/Inf. 7.2);
- Summary sheets of the Agreements concluded under the Convention (in English, French and Spanish: latest version September 2002) – document UNEP/CMS/Inf. 7.11.

IV. Liaison with Governments and Agreement secretariats, other organisations

A. Governments (CMS Parties)

32. Of the now eighty Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species, all but ten have formally notified the Secretariat of their official correspondent for the purpose of facilitating communication with the Secretariat and other Parties. Those countries from which the Secretariat is awaiting confirmation of the details of the CMS Focal Point are: Albania, Congo, Cyprus, Georgia, Greece, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mauritania, Paraguay, Sao Tome and Principe and Somalia. All Parties are encouraged to appoint a focal point and to advise of any changes thereto, in order to be kept abreast of the latest developments in the Convention.

33. Many of these same Parties, plus a few others, have yet to appoint (or confirm a change to) their representative on the CMS Scientific Council, in accordance with Article VIII, para. 2, of the Convention. They are: Albania, Cyprus, Denmark, Greece, Guinea-Bissau, Jordan, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malta, Mauritania, Panama, Paraguay, Sao Tome and Principe, and Somalia. Amounting to nearly 20 percent of the Council's potential membership, this represents a considerable loss of valuable knowledge and expertise. Moreover, many countries that would otherwise be eligible to receive funding for small project activities are not participating in the process where such projects are vetted.

34. On the positive side, apart from implementing the Convention on a national level, a number of Parties have supported the Secretariat in its work and have actively contributed to the further development of the Convention during the reporting period. This support may take the form of

playing a lead role in the development of new CMS Agreements, hosting meetings, seconding staff, chairing subsidiary bodies or working groups, sponsoring or conducting special project activities, proposing the listing of new species on the Appendices, providing funds to facilitate the participation of delegates in meetings, and assisting in efforts to recruit new Parties.

35. It would be impossible to mention all such contributions here; indeed some are appropriately acknowledged in other conference papers (e.g. UNEP/CMS/Conf.7.10: Review of Implementation of the Strategic Plan 2000-2005, UNEP/CMS/Conf. 7.13.1 Addendum: Financial and Administrative Arrangements) or are reported in national reports and in the framework of existing CMS Agreements. Nevertheless, under the headings described above, it is worth mentioning the following valuable contributions from CMS Parties since COP6:

Temporary secondment of staff: United Kingdom (of Mr. Robert Vagg, to CMS/EUROBATS through June 2001)

Hosting of CMS meetings / Development of CMS Agreements (does not include meetings of subsidiary bodies of CMS Agreements):

- Australia (Consultative meeting on the proposed Albatross and Petrel Agreement, Hobart, January 2000)
- Germany (22nd and 23rd Standing Committee, Bonn, September 2002 and December 2001; COP7, Bonn, September 2002)
- Guinea (Workshop on the Conservation and Management of Small Cetaceans of the Coast of Africa, Conakry, May 2000)
- Monaco (1st Meeting of Parties to ACCOBAMS, February 2002)
- Philippines (Conference on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia, Manila, June 2001; 2nd International Conference on the Marine Mammals of Southeast Asia, Dumaguete, July 2002)
- Peru (CMS Regional Workshop for Latin America, Lima, October 2001)
- South Africa (2nd Negotiation Meeting on the proposed Albatross and Petrel Agreement, Cape Town, January 2001)
- Tajikistan (Meeting to conclude the Bukhara Deer Memorandum of Understanding, Dushanbe, May 2002)
- Ukraine (Slender-billed Curlew Working Group, Kiev, April 2001)
- United Kingdom (10th Scientific Council Meeting, Edinburgh, May 2001)
- Uzbekistan (Workshop on Conserving Waterbirds and Wetlands of the Central Asian-Indian Flyway, Tashkent, August 2001)

36. **CMS Party sponsorship of special project activities:** Australia (ca. USD 50,000 towards secretariat of the Indian Ocean-Southeast Asian Marine Turtle MoU); Germany (Annual fixed voluntary contribution of ca. USD 45,000 per annum); France (USD 1.42 million towards Sahelo-Saharan ungulate project); United Kingdom (USD 20,000 towards secretariat of the Indian Ocean-Southeast Asian Marine Turtle MoU; USD7,000 towards development of awareness materials on the Bactrian Camel); *Also:* USA (USD 89,000 towards secretariat of the Indian Ocean-Southeast Asian Marine Turtle MoU).

37. **Sponsorship of delegates to attend CMS meetings:** Denmark (USD13,500 for COP7 delegate support), France (USD 40,000 towards African Marine Turtle Meeting and related activities), Germany (USD120,000 for COP7 delegate support), Norway (USD6,386 for COP7 delegate support), United Kingdom (USD 22,500 for COP7 delegate support; USD15,000 towards IOSEA Marine Turtle Meeting; USD1,830 for Standing Committee delegate support; USD 15,716 for Scientific Council delegate support); Denmark (USD13,210 for COP7 delegate support).

38. **Proposals for amending the CMS Appendices:** Prepared/submitted by Australia, Chile, Ghana, Mongolia, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Senegal, Uzbekistan.

B. Agreement secretariats

39. Arrangements for provision of secretariat services to Agreements developed under the auspices of CMS differ according to the particular circumstances and time frame under which the Agreement in question was concluded. Three of the Agreements are serviced by independent secretariats co-located with the CMS Secretariat in Bonn and integrated in the UNEP/CMS Agreements Unit: the *Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds* (AEWA), the *Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats* (EUROBATS), and the *Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas* (ASCOBANS).

40. The *Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area* (ACCOBAMS) is serviced by a secretariat located in and provided by Monaco, while the *Agreement on the Conservation of Seals in the Wadden Sea* is serviced by the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat located in Wilhelmshaven, northern Germany. Environment Australia provides the interim secretariat for the *Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels* (ACAP) in Canberra. Unlike the other secretariats mentioned above, none of these is administered by UNEP.

41. Finally, the CMS Secretariat provides *de facto* secretariat services for several Memoranda of Understanding concluded between 1993 and 2002 -- notably those concerning the Siberian Crane, Slender-billed Curlew, Great Bustard, Marine Turtles and Bukhara Deer.

42. More detailed information on each of these instruments and interagency collaboration can be found in other documents before the meeting, including UNEP/CMS/Conf. 7.9.1 (Review of Article IV Agreements already Concluded) and UNEP/CMS/Conf.7.14.2 (Institutional Arrangements: Co-location of Agreement Secretariats).

C. Intergovernmental Organisations

43. The Review of Implementation of the Strategic Plan (Document UNEP/CMS/Conf. 7.10, Section 4.4) summarizes the synergistic linkages that the CMS Secretariat has sought to establish and maintain with various intergovernmental bodies. Most noteworthy during the present reporting period, was the formal endorsement by the Conference of the Parties to CBD (COP6, The Hague, April 2002) of a CBD-CMS Joint Work Programme, to accompany the Memorandum of Understanding already in place since 1996. Similar MoUs exist with the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (since 1997) and the International Whaling Commission (since 2000); and there are ongoing consultations on the elaboration of more detailed plans for collaboration with these organizations. Memoranda of Understanding with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species and with the UNESCO Man and Biosphere Programme and the World Heritage Convention are expected to be signed on the occasion of COP7. Development and conclusion of a MoU with the UN Convention to Combat Desertification has not yet proceeded at a similar pace. In general, reciprocal participation in each others' meetings is now becoming more institutionalized, which can only increase the extent and quality of contacts among the various organizations.

44. The Secretariat continues to have close working relations with various substantive offices of the United Nations Environment Programme in Nairobi, in particular, the Division of Environmental Conventions, Division of GEF Coordination, Environmental Law Branch, as well as the Cambridge-based World Conservation Monitoring Centre. Areas of common interest include: support for global initiatives related to marine turtles, marine mammals and great apes; GEF project development, with a focus on wetlands and waterbirds; capacity-building and needs assessments; and information management. As reported elsewhere, in addition to providing core administrative services to CMS (eg. personnel recruitment, management of the CMS Trust Fund, audit services etc.), UNON also provides the CMS Administrative/Fund Management Officer, covers part of the cost of the CMS Finance Assistant, and has also offered short-term administrative support in 2002, which was greatly appreciated.

45. In the European region, cooperation in specific fields of common interest has been assured with smaller regional conventions, such as the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) and the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean, particularly through its associated Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas. The Secretariats of CMS, Bern Convention and RAC/SPA collaborated in the successful convening of the first Mediterranean Conference on Marine Turtles in October 2001. Cooperation with other regional conventions and programmes warrants attention, but suffers from a lack of capacity within the CMS Secretariat.

D. International Non-Governmental Organizations

46. As in the past, close cooperation has continued with the recently reorganized Wetlands International and with BirdLife International, both of which are involved in CMS project implementation. CMS already has a memorandum of understanding with Wetlands International, which is expected to be elaborated further into a more detailed planning framework. A comparable agreement with BirdLife International is envisaged. More intensive collaboration with both organizations is limited only by a lack of capacity, especially within CMS. Discussions aimed at strengthening and formalising the relationship with IUCN, including its Environmental Law Centre, are progressing, though perhaps not as quickly as desired. IUCN-USA hosted a CMS Secretariat briefing session for Washington-based NGOs in May 2001. World Wide Fund for Nature has signalled that it may become more actively involved in CMS-related issues, as compared to recent years.

47. Several other non-governmental organizations with specialised mandates, such as the International Crane Foundation (USA), Euronatur (Germany) and Global Nature Fund (Germany) continue to play an active role in CMS implementation and promotion.

Conclusion

48. In reviewing the developments since the Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Cape Town, November 1999), it would not be an overstatement to say that CMS is finally coming of age. Notwithstanding some important abstentions, nearly 100 countries around the globe are now Parties to the Convention or are participating in its subsidiary Agreements. Further strides have been made in the past three years to develop specialised instruments and to initiate catalytic projects for a wide range of species, including birds, cetaceans, marine turtles and terrestrial mammals. An ambitious new information management plan is about to be launched, which will bring CMS closer to its aim of becoming a clearing house for information on migratory species. The Convention's newly redesigned Web site, though still a "work in progress", is a window to the world with endless possibilities for expansion and further improvement.

49. That so much has been accomplished for such a wide range of migratory animals is remarkable, if one considers that the core staff of the CMS Secretariat still numbers only slightly more than a dozen dedicated individuals. Looking back over the past three years, if there are any grounds for disappointment, it comes from the recognition that so much more could be achieved if there were only a modest strengthening of the Secretariat's capacity in certain critical areas, such as information management and interagency liaison.

50. The unfinished work reflected in the CMS Strategic Plan gives ample evidence that the challenges facing the Convention and the migratory animals it aims to conserve are numerous. Yet, there is reason to be optimistic that the future will bring measurable improvements to the conservation status of the multitude of migratory species with which we share the planet.

51. As noted earlier, a number of countries have yet to become Parties to CMS, notwithstanding the relevance of the Convention to them (and vice-versa), by virtue of their bountiful biological diversity or their considerable human and financial resources. Hopefully, the progress reported in this paper will cause them to re-examine their reticence to join other nations that have demonstrated their commitment to conserving the world's migratory species through this unique global instrument.

ORGANIZATION CHART FOR THE UNEP/CMS SECRETARIAT (as at August 2002)

