

Part I: Review of Objectives and Action Points contained in Resolution 5.4 (Geneva, 1997)

OBJECTIVE 1: ENHANCE MEMBERSHIP IN CMS THROUGH TARGETED PROMOTION OF THE CONVENTION'S AIMS

- 1.1 Parties, UNEP and the Standing Committee, with the active support of the Secretariat, should intensify efforts to persuade potential Parties to join the Convention and related Agreements. First priority should be given, but efforts not necessarily limited, to the key countries for which "country profiles" have been already been developed according to biological criteria (Parties, UNEP, Standing Committee, Secretariat)**

The membership of the Convention has increased from 49 Parties at the time of fifth meeting of the COP to 65 Parties as of the time of writing; another 20 non-Party countries participate in one or more CMS Agreements or Memoranda of Understanding. Since 1997, the Secretariat has had substantive discussions with representatives of over 60 non-Parties with a view to encouraging their accession to or ratification of CMS and related Agreements (a detailed list of the contacts made has been circulated to the Standing Committee for information and further input). The Secretariat's efforts to recruit new Parties have included: personalized letters to Ministers, in-country briefing sessions with government officers, circulation of the "country profiles" to 18 high priority non-Party countries, distribution of information kits at meetings attended by CMS officers, informal discussions with representatives in the margins of other meetings, and numerous other follow-up activities. In addition, CMS officers have delivered opening statements or have made formal presentations at numerous gatherings which have include governmental representatives (Annex 1).

In November 1997, upon the request of the Secretariat, the then Executive Director of UNEP sent a letter to Environment Ministers of all countries of the European region not yet Parties to CMS recommending that their countries accede to CMS and relevant sub-Agreements. Additionally, various representatives on the CMS Standing Committee have also made initiatives to raise the issue of CMS membership with countries in their region and beyond. In particular, the representative of Africa on the Committee (Guinea) addressed African non-Party countries by way of a letter from its responsible Minister.

By way of comparison, the number of Parties to CMS sixteen years after the Convention's entry into force is identical to the membership in the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands after the same period (that sister convention now has 116 Contracting Parties). The extraordinary increase in the number of new Parties to CMS in the last year alone augurs well for the future.

- 1.2 The Secretariat should expedite preparation and updating of information material, including brochures, posters, videos, mobile displays, a Convention Directory, and regular bulletins. Parties are encouraged to provide technical assistance and funds if the core budget does not suffice. Such material should be used both to promote awareness and implementation of CMS in existing Party States and to promote the Convention to potential new Parties. Individual Parties should produce information materials for national or regional audiences. Consideration should be given to undertaking a major information campaign, in concert with non-governmental organizations, well in advance of the Convention's 20th anniversary in 1999.**

(Secretariat, Parties, NGOs)

The appointment of an Information Officer and an Assistant, who took up their posts in 1998 and 1999, respectively, has resulted in much greater attention being paid to the production and updating of CMS information material. The English version of the CMS Web site was renovated completely in September

1998, and now has a more attractive interface. As capacity permits, it will be updated more frequently than in the past, and further improvements in content are anticipated. Owing to resource limitations, it has not been possible to transform the French and Spanish sites, however it is planned to have at least the basic Convention documents available in the future.

The Secretariat has not been able, so far, to reach its goal of producing at least 2-3 issues of the CMS Bulletin each year. Nonetheless a 12-page issue was distributed in December 1998 incorporating a new design and improved content, and a special issue was circulated in June 1999 to commemorate the Convention's 20th anniversary. The general information brochure (in English, French, Spanish and German) has been updated and completely re-designed in order to facilitate the printing and distribution. An eye-catching panel display giving an overview of the Convention was produced in 1999, as was a brand-new "PowerPoint" presentation. A guide to the operation of the Convention has been prepared in English and German, and will be revised in due course. A calendar illustrating some of the most charismatic migratory species, is under preparation and will be made available before the end of 1999. An attractive set of stickers bearing the CMS logo will be distributed at the COP in Cape Town and a CMS lapel pin is also in production.

The Secretariat is not well informed of initiatives undertaken by individual Parties. However, the Netherlands has produced numerous information materials in relation to the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement, and has financed the printing of the proceedings of a 1997 symposium on animal migration as part of a new CMS technical series. (The first volume of the series -- *Conservation Measures for the Siberian Crane* -- produced by the Secretariat in early 1999 has been well received, and further volumes are planned for next year.) Germany has produced a 20-minute video on migratory species (in German and English) which was released in connection with the 20th anniversary celebrations in June 1999. The German authorities have also collaborated with the Secretariat to produce a German-language Web site containing basic CMS texts.

OBJECTIVE 2: INTENSIFY CONSERVATION INITIATIVES IN REGIONS UNDER REPRESENTED IN CMS

- 2.1 The Convention's presence in Africa and Asia-Oceania should be strengthened with a view to encouraging regional co-operation for migratory species conservation. As in the case of Latin America, where the appointment of a Programme Officer from the region has helped to stimulate regional initiatives, Parties should be encouraged to second personnel to CMS in order to facilitate governmental and non-governmental contacts and to improve programme delivery within Africa and Asia-Oceania. The Secretariat should be more proactive in its efforts to promote conservation initiatives in co-operation with regional bodies. (Parties, Secretariat)**

Efforts to recruit an African Junior Professional Officer (JPO)

The holding of the sixth meeting of the COP in South Africa, CMS' commitment to extend its support to the AEWA, and the need to intensify CMS conservation initiatives generally in this region made the recruitment of an African JPO an important objective for the Secretariat. The recruitment exercise started in March 1998, after CMS came to know about the UNEP JPO programme, funded through a contribution of the Netherlands Government. The Secretariat drew up terms of reference and advertised the position through the African embassies in Bonn, and directly through the Ministries of Environment of several African countries with the assistance of the UNEP Regional Office for Africa. After the Secretariat interviewed a number of candidates in two separate exercises, it turned out that the selection criteria required under the Netherlands programme were not compatible with the kinds of candidates applying for the JPO post in question. The most suitable candidates, including one who was expected to be engaged in September 1999, were overqualified when measured against the level of the post that the Netherlands Government was willing to fund. As this news coincided with the busy period of preparations for the COP, the Secretariat was obliged to discontinue the recruitment exercise for the time being. Therefore, the

Secretariat has not been in a position to benefit from an African JPO for the preparation of COP6 or, in the short term, to increase its field of activity in the African region beyond the present level.

Effort to recruit a Regional Officer for Africa and a Regional Officer for Asia

Letters were sent twice to the Focal Points of about 10 CMS Parties requesting them to examine whether their Governments would be in a position to provide the Secretariat with experienced persons on secondment for the posts of Regional Programme Officer for Africa and Asia (posts agreed by COP5, budget lines 1107 and 1108). Only a few responses were received, all of them negative.

In the meantime, a decision of the United Nations General Assembly has severely curtailed the ability of agencies such as UNEP/CMS to fill posts through *gratis* personnel, unless the donor government was prepared to finance the personnel costs through the CMS Trust Fund, incurring 14% overhead charges in the process. On instruction of the UNON Chief of Administration, in September 1998 the Secretariat stopped all activities to recruit more *gratis* personnel through arrangements that did not meet the new requirements.

2.2 In Africa, the emphasis should be on supporting activities that are just getting off the ground, such as the recently concluded African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement, as well as preliminary work on marine turtles and cetaceans in coastal waters.
(Parties, Secretariat)

Waterbirds

A growing number of Range States are using the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement as a basis for their activities on national and international levels, including species and habitat conservation, research and monitoring programmes, etc. A number of publications have been produced which are of relevance to the Agreement, including the African Waterfowl Census (Wetlands International, 1996), Atlas of Anatidae Populations in Africa and Western Eurasian (Wetlands International, 1996) and the Globally Threatened Birds in Europe, Action Plans (Council of Europe, 1996). The Netherlands has indicated its intention to contribute also to an international action plan for the Dark-bellied Brent Goose and an atlas of waders. Further projects are already envisaged to develop regional capacities for monitoring, awareness, and management of wetlands, etc. Projects are also being developed to monitor and survey large important wetlands e.g. the Niger Delta in Mali. Range States have been using the AEWA framework to prepare various species conservation plans, many of which will serve as models to facilitate implementation of the Agreement after its entry into force.

The Netherlands, being the lead country for the Agreement, is providing more than one million US dollars per annum for an initial period of four years to establish and implement pilot programmes in two key regions for the Agreement (western Africa and eastern European countries) for the integrated implementation of both the AEWA and Ramsar Convention. Other developed countries have been encouraged to establish similar partnerships and investments in other regions of the Agreement area, but the Secretariat is not aware of any other countries having followed the Netherlands example so far.

In 1998, an office was established in Dakar, Senegal, to implement a programme involving 16 countries in West Africa. The interim AEWA secretariat, assisted by Wetlands International and with financial aid from the Netherlands, Switzerland and the EU, is preparing the necessary documents for the first meeting of the Parties. A workshop, organised by Wetlands International in Dakar, Senegal, in October 1998 included the AEWA as a priority item.

For its part, the CMS Secretariat continues to encourage non-Parties to join the Agreement, as part of its own recruitment efforts. Several letters were sent to a number of key African countries; and both the CMS and AEWA secretariats made visits to selected countries in 1999.

Marine turtles

The Secretariat has stimulated several activities in relation to Marine turtles in the West African waters. It worked together with French expert Dr. Jacques Fretey to produce the *draft* report “Marine Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa”, which was circulated to all Range States concerned, CMS Focal Points, Scientific Councillors, NGOs and others in May 1998. Plans to finalise the publication by the end of 1999 have been delayed on account of the Secretariat’s preoccupation with the COP.

The Secretariat, in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Forests of Côte d’Ivoire, organized an *International Conference on the Conservation of Sea Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa*, in Abidjan, in May 1999. The meeting reviewed the conservation status of sea turtles in the region, and adopted a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at promoting the conservation of marine turtles in the Range States concerned. The meeting also produced a first working draft of a Conservation Plan outlining measures to be undertaken in the short- and medium-term. The gathering was co-sponsored by CMS, the Government of France and the French Committee for IUCN. It assembled representatives and specialists from 17 Range States, extending from Mauritania to Namibia, as well as other interested participants. The proceedings of the conference will be published together with the revised technical report in the new year, and will be available from the CMS Secretariat.

Cetaceans

A CMS-sponsored project entitled *Monitoring of fisheries interactions and investigation of population status of cetaceans in West Africa* – covering Senegal, Gambia and Guinea-Bissau – was concluded successfully in 1998. A second phase of the project began in early 1999 in keeping with the recommendation of the Scientific Council during its 8th meeting, in Wageningen (June 1998). After a considerable effort to try to get the organization of a *Regional workshop on the study, conservation, and management of small cetaceans on the African coast* of the ground, in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment of Guinea, the proposed workshop has had to be postponed indefinitely due to a number of unresolved administrative issues.

Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes

Further to recommendations of the COP (Resolution 4.5, Nairobi 1994) and the Scientific Council, the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Science (IRSNB) prepared status reports on six antelope species and a comprehensive draft Action Plan for the recovery of the species and their habitat. In February 1998 a “Seminar on the Conservation and Restoration of the Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes” was held in Djerba, Tunisia, attended by governmental representatives and antelope experts from the 14 Range States as well as other specialists. The meeting revised the status reports, amended and adopted the Action Plan, and adopted a resolution (“Djerba Declaration”) calling, *inter alia*, on the Range State authorities, United Nations and other international organisations and partners to contribute to the implementation of the Action Plan. It also requests UNEP/CMS Secretariat to develop a Range States Agreement and to convene a follow-up meeting at an appropriate time. In January 1999, the Secretariat received from the IRSNB the finalised Action Plan, as amended by the Djerba seminar. The proceedings of the seminar, including the Action Plan and status reports are almost ready for printing and distribution. IRSNB has also drafted a first model project out of the Action Plan, which will be reviewed and evaluated soon by the relevant authorities for funding.

Sandgrouse

Moving nomadically between regions in Botswana, Namibia and South Africa, the Sandgrouse is subject to growing hunting pressure. A Memorandum of Understanding among the Range States is under development with a view to formalising co-operation in the gathering of more scientific data on the bird’s biology, the threats affecting it, and the potential of using it in a sustainable manner.

- 2.3 In Asia-Oceania, CMS should continue to support and provide input to the *Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy (1996-2000)*, which may lead in the future to a more formal multilateral agreement among States of the region, and to take an active role in the development of a conservation initiative for migratory waterbirds of the Central Asian-Indian flyway. In addition, CMS should play a more prominent role in regional co-operation for marine turtle conservation, where other bodies are not already active, and should continue to support essential research on cetaceans.**
(Parties, Secretariat)

The Secretariat is formally represented in the Migratory Waterbird Conservation Committee (MWCC), which is the steering committee for activities undertaken within the framework of the Strategy. Although the Committee, which receives its administrative and technical support from Wetlands International - Asia Pacific, has met only twice (in March 1997 and February 1999) a considerable number of activities have progressed independently. Progress reports are available from the Secretariat. The CMS Secretariat has been monitoring these activities, but has not otherwise had the capacity to intervene more actively, especially in view of the limited CMS membership in the region.

CMS co-sponsored, with Wetlands International and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the publication and distribution of *The Asian Waterfowl Census 1994-1996*. Discussions are currently underway with Wetlands International and the Ramsar Bureau about the possibility of organising jointly a meeting of Range States in 2000 to take forward the idea of developing an appropriate instrument for waterbirds of the Central Asian-Indian flyway.

The Government of Australia is currently involved in discussions with a number of CMS Range States of the Indian Ocean region, as well as non-Parties, with a view to catalysing a regional conservation mechanism for marine turtles. This would build on the marine turtle workshop held in Bhubaneswar, India, in January 1997, which was co-sponsored by CMS. Environment Australia has taken the initiative to host a meeting of Indian Ocean Range States in Perth in October 1999, with partial funding from CMS, to seek consensus on the elements of such a regional mechanism.

The Secretariat has encouraged Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (at present a non-Party) to take the lead in the organization of a smaller marine turtle workshop in West Asia. This is expected to materialise in the first trimester of 2000. So far, the Secretariat's attempts in South-East Asia to re-invigorate efforts to promote a regional conservation mechanism there have not met with success. Nevertheless it took advantage of the opportunity afforded by the 2nd ASEAN Symposium and Workshop on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation (Malaysia, July 1999) to present the case for developing an appropriate instrument in collaboration with CMS.

Three marine turtle conservation projects of relevance to Asia-Oceania, endorsed by the Scientific Council at its meeting in June 1998 have since been initiated. A prototype Global Information System (GIS) database and mapping facility for Indian Ocean nesting beaches, produced by WCMC, is now accessible from the CMS Web site. A genetics study to help elucidate turtle migration in the Indo-Pacific, and a tagging programme and by-catch survey in Sri Lanka are both about to get under way.

Similarly, two projects concerning small cetaceans of relevance to the region -- a survey of dolphin populations in the Timor and Arafura Seas, for which a proposal was prepared by the Australian Scientific Councillor, and a survey of small cetaceans in the Gulf of Tonkin (relevant for Vietnam and China) -- were about to begin at the time of writing (in September 1999).

- 2.4 The Convention shall contribute to ensure that advances achieved in the neotropics by way of the CMS South American workshop (Proceedings, Valdivia, Chile, 1-3 December 1996) and whose conclusions were recognized and endorsed by the seventh meeting of the Scientific Council are followed up, and recommends that this type of meeting should also be organized for other regions of the world.**
(Parties, Secretariat)

Various conservation projects have been approved for the region and some of them are being implemented already. A meeting was organized in cooperation with the Government of Uruguay, in Punta del Este, Uruguay in December 1998 as a follow up to the Valdivia workshop held in December 1996, as well as the creation of the Latin American and Caribbean working group after the COP 6 (Recommendation 5.6, Geneva 1997). All CMS Parties of the region attended the meeting, together with Brazil, Bolivia, Costa Rica and Ecuador. The representative from Bolivia announced during the meeting that his country was expected to join CMS by early February 1999 (this has yet to materialise). After the meeting a smaller workshop was conducted to finalize the preparation of a concept project entitled *Migratory waterbirds as indicators of sound wetland management and conservation in southern South America*, to be submitted to GEF for funding. Representatives from the four countries involved Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Uruguay attended the workshop. The concept project was finalized and sent to the UNEP/GEF Secretariat in Nairobi. Further action is pending.

OBJECTIVE 3: FACILITATE AND IMPROVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

3.1 The Secretariat should work together with each new Party, as soon as possible after their accession to CMS, to advise, answer queries and offer suggestions as regards implementation of the Convention. It should, through a consultancy, develop guidelines on legislation and implementation and other useful material, in order to give guidance to new Parties on CMS and its associated Agreements. (Secretariat, individual Parties)

Regrettably, with few exceptions, there has been only limited interaction between the Secretariat and new Parties to the Convention that have joined since 1997. The Secretariat does, however, address every new Party through official channels, advising on first steps to be taken and offering further advice on request. Once a Party has nominated a Focal Point and Scientific Councillor, the Secretariat sends all documentation on CMS and Agreements relevant for the country. The experience to date can be explained, in part, by the Secretariat's lack of capacity to take a more pro-active approach, and by the fact that it actually receives very few requests from new Parties for this kind of assistance. Although it would be convenient to believe that this is because the mechanics of the CMS have been explained so thoroughly, and all the necessary institutional arrangements have been put in place prior to the country joining the Convention, this is surely not the case in many instances.

The Secretariat, assisted by the IUCN Environmental Law Centre, has developed a working paper on the subject of transforming CMS into national legislation and programmes. This paper, however, would need further elaboration and amendment, especially the chapter on programming and action. It would benefit greatly from examples from Parties on how they have transformed CMS and Agreements into their national legislation and programmes, as well as copies of their proposals for ratification of / accession to the Convention and Agreements (in one of the work languages of CMS). On the basis of one excellent example, the Secretariat has, in consultation with the AEWA interim secretariat, developed a sample Cabinet memorandum for the ratification of, or accession to, the AEWA, which is available on request.

3.2 Parties as well as non-Party States, including regional economic integration organisations, should provide sufficient funds for the implementation of the Convention and of Agreements concluded under its auspices, both domestically and for transboundary co-operation and concerted action. Developed countries should channel adequate funds to projects for the implementation of CMS and Agreements in developing countries and countries in economic transition. Also, they should encourage non-governmental organisations to target their project work, *inter alia*, towards the implementation of CMS and Agreements. (Parties, non-Parties, NGOs)

No information has been provided to the Secretariat specifically on the implementation of these measures (refer also to Party reports on implementation - UNEP/CMS/Conf. 6.6)

3.3 All Parties should be encouraged to submit reports on their implementation of CMS well before each meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP). An analysis of reports submitted by Parties should be prepared before each meeting. The Secretariat should engage a specialised organisation on a permanent basis to review and evaluate the reports and to prepare a comprehensive report for the COP on the status and population trends for the relevant species, and conservation measures undertaken by the Parties and non-Party Range States, using also information from other sources.

A proposal should be developed and submitted to the COP6, as well as to the Meetings of the Parties of the Agreements concluded under CMS, to harmonise the various reports with a view to a) making those reports more substantial, b) providing the COP with appropriate information on the implementation of the Convention and c) making an input to the Convention on Biological Diversity with respect to the conservation of migratory species. (Parties, Secretariat)

An increasing, but still insufficient, number of CMS Parties comply with their obligation to submit country reports. Only 7 (27 %) out of 26 Parties did so for COP2 in 1988, but the proportion increased to 17 (46 %) out of 37 for COP3 in 1991 and to 22 (52 %) out of 42 for COP4 in 1994. In 1997, 27 (55 %) out of the 49 Parties submitted their country reports for COP5. At the time of writing, the Secretariat had received less than 25% of the reports expected to be submitted to COP6.

The World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) has prepared an information management plan for CMS (Document UNEP/CMS/Conf. 6.7), which is intended to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of CMS implementation; facilitate sharing of information between the CMS Secretariat and the various Agreement secretariats; and ensure an effective contribution by CMS to harmonized reporting and information management by global biodiversity-related treaties. The plan was prepared in consultation with the secretariats of AEWA, ACCOBAMS, ASCOBANS, and Eurobats. A final draft will be presented to the COP6 for consideration and endorsement.

As a second phase of that project, it is envisaged that WCMC will prepare a report reviewing the status and population trends of selected species (e.g. Appendix I species) and the conservation measures undertaken by the Parties and non-Party Range States, using information from Party reports and other sources.

Additionally, the CMS Secretariat is collaborating with the secretariats of the other four global biodiversity-related treaties (CBD, CITES, Ramsar, and World Heritage) and UNEP in a feasibility study for a harmonized information management infrastructure for biodiversity-related treaties. The final report of this feasibility study was published in August 1998, and has been made available to the CMS Standing Committee. In October 1998, the CMS Secretariat took the initiative to convene a meeting of the information managers of the five global biodiversity-related treaties and WCMC to discuss follow up to the feasibility study. Various follow up actions were identified and responsibilities allocated. Some basic initiatives have already been undertaken and further progress is awaiting consultations with the other conventions concerned.

OBJECTIVE 4: DEVELOP AGREEMENTS ACCORDING TO REGIONAL PRIORITIES

4.1 Activities to lay basis for the identification and development of new Agreements should be continued and intensified, as far as resources are available. Parties, including regional

economic integration organisations, should take the lead in developing and/or sponsoring Agreements and in hosting interim secretariats; sponsors should specify clearly to the Standing Committee how they intend to proceed in this regard. Developed Party States, whether or not they are Range States, should be encouraged to facilitate initiatives of developing countries by providing technical, scientific and financial assistance on request. The Secretariat's capacity to assist in the development of new Agreements should be strengthened. (COP, Parties, Scientific Council, Secretariat)

Refer to the report of the Secretariat (document UNEP/CMS/Conf. 6.9) for information on the state of progress of various Agreements. The Secretariat has not received information on the extent to which developed Party States have assisted developing countries to initiate new Agreements (in any case none has come to fruition as far as the Secretariat is aware). A proposal to strengthen the Secretariat's capacity to assist in the development of new Agreements is before the present meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

4.2 Support to existing Agreements (including Memoranda of Understanding) should be provided by the Secretariat to the extent these activities contribute significantly to the conservation of the species concerned and help to raise the profile of the Convention. (Secretariat)

The CMS Secretariat continues to provide secretariat services to the two Memoranda of Understanding concluded under its auspices for the Siberian Crane and the Slender-billed Curlew, respectively. Since 1997, it has organized a successful meeting of Siberian Crane Range States (Islamic Republic of Iran, December 1998) and has co-ordinated the preparation of a comprehensive Conservation Plan for the species which has since been used as a model for other CMS initiatives. In relation to the Slender-billed Curlew, the Secretariat was involved in the establishment of a working group under the auspices of the Scientific Council, with BirdLife International helping to co-ordinate its activities. The *Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for Marine Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa*, concluded in May 1999, will also require further input on the part of the Secretariat.

The Secretariat has, in conjunction with its efforts to recruit Parties to CMS, addressed a number of individual countries to raise awareness of membership in other CMS Agreements, particularly those which have yet to enter into force. These initiatives have included regular progress reports to the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention, welcoming addresses/ information documents for COPs of the Ramsar Convention, CBD (also SBSTTA), and other meetings in Africa and Middle East. Contacts have also extended to individual countries on political, managerial and expert levels.

OBJECTIVE 5: PRIORITIZE CONSERVATION ACTIONS FOR MIGRATORY SPECIES

5.1 Priority should continue to be given to actions for Appendix I species (or populations). The Scientific Council should recommend to the Conference of the Parties or Standing Committee, as appropriate, concerted measures to be taken by Parties in respect of selected species. The Secretariat, in consultation with the Scientific Council, should promote the development of cost-effective projects, in particular those intended to have a direct benefit for Appendix I species. (Scientific Council, Secretariat)

A significant part of the eighth Meeting of the Scientific Council (Wageningen, June 1998) was dedicated to discuss advances made with respect to Appendix I species, including those identified by COP5 as warranting "concerted actions". The report of the meeting describes the progress made to date, as well as the specific conservation projects -- potentially 27 in total -- agreed in principle by the Council, to be implemented using \$600,000 set aside by the COP5. The Secretariat undertook all of the necessary administrative arrangements soon after the Scientific Council meeting to facilitate the initiation of these projects, by circulating to all interested Parties the required project formats together with a detailed

explanation of how to complete them. Refer to document UNEP/CMS/Conf. 6.8 for a summary of the projects currently under way.

5.2 In the case of critically endangered species listed in Appendix I, Parties should designate protected areas, in close co-operation with other Range States and taking into account commitments under other international instruments, so that a network of critical sites is established throughout the migration route of the species concerned.
(Parties)

No information has been provided to the Secretariat specifically on the implementation of these measures (refer also to Party reports on implementation - UNEP/CMS/Conf. 6.6)

5.3 The CMS Appendices should be reviewed and improved continually in order to assure their scientific integrity and value for conservation purposes.
(Scientific Council)

The Scientific Council devoted a significant part of its last meeting to discussing the potential inclusion of additional species in Appendix I. Document CMS/ScC8/Doc. 6 Annex 1, Summary Review of CMS Appendix I, prepared by the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC), was used as a reference paper for the discussion, and was endorsed by the Council. The Council also gave a mandate to five rapporteurs to study the question in more detail and to liaise with other Councillors with a view to seeking their views on candidate species, in order for formal proposals to be presented to the Conference of the Parties. A number of species were identified already by the meeting for possible inclusion in the Appendices, as follows:

- Endangered sturgeons (*Acipenser*) species - Appendix I; non-endangered *Acipenser* (Appendix II). Support for the preparation of a proposal for listing them would be sought from Germany, the biggest importer of caviar in the world.
- The Whale Shark and four species of dolphins were identified as suitable candidates for inclusion in the Appendices and the Philippines agreed to take the initiative to present them in the next COP.
- A meeting of Latin American and Caribbean Parties, held in Punta del Este, Uruguay, in December 1998, considered potential new species from the region, and is expected to result in proposals from some Parties of that region.

The Conference of the Parties has before it a number of proposals for amendments to the CMS Appendices, many of which were reflected in the Scientific Council deliberations.

OBJECTIVE 6: MOBILIZE FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR CONSERVATION INITIATIVES

6.1 The Secretariat, with the assistance of the Standing Committee, should develop closer relations with multilateral agencies operating on a global and/or regional level that provide development assistance for projects which: a) may affect migratory species covered by CMS or b) could include migratory species as a component of a broader conservation strategy.
(Secretariat, Standing Committee)

In 1998, with the assistance of UNEP, the Secretariat embarked on the development of a number of projects for submission to the Global Environment Facility. The most advanced (as reported on elsewhere) are as follows:

- a project, with its core focus on the recovery of the Siberian Crane, but with wider application to wetlands and other migratory waterbird species, entitled: *Conservation of the Globally Significant Wetlands and Migration Corridors required by Siberian Cranes and Other Globally Significant Migratory Waterbirds in Asia*.
- a medium-size GEF project entitled *Migratory waterbirds as indicators of sound wetland management and conservation in southern South America* involves Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Uruguay.

Also under preparation are projects on Sahelo-Saharan antelopes (mentioned above) and migratory waterbirds in the AEWA geographic area.

The procedures for all of these project proposals, which are both lengthy and complex, were still ongoing, at the time of writing. The Secretariat is lacking the internal capacity to make more substantial contacts with other global or regional multilateral agencies.

OBJECTIVE 7: RATIONALIZE INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

- 7.1 Secretariats for individual Agreements should be financed entirely by their Parties, except when the membership is such that financial support from the Convention is essential in the early stages of development. In addition, Parties to the respective Agreements should provide substantial voluntary support to facilitate the administration and effective implementation of the Agreement. (Parties to Agreements, Secretariat, Standing Committee)**

The secretariats of Eurobats and ASCOBANS, the largest CMS Agreements so far in force are both financed entirely by their respective (European) Parties; no additional financial contribution from the Convention has been needed. In accordance with the wishes of its Meeting of the Parties, the ASCOBANS secretariat moved from Cambridge, UK, in March 1998 to be co-located with the UNEP/CMS Secretariat in Bonn, pending a future decision on its integration with the UNEP/CMS Secretariat. Like the Eurobats secretariat, already co-located with CMS, the ASCOBANS secretariat is presently administered under an arrangement with the German Nature Conservation Agency. While both secretariats are to a large extent self-reliant, they benefit from access to the facilities and equipment of the CMS Secretariat, the administrative services and computer network provided to CMS through its affiliation with the other United Nations agencies in the same premises, as well as some technical and administrative support. A protocol agreement, pending finalization at the time of writing, has been developed to clarify the co-location arrangements and to ensure that, as far as possible, the material costs of the Agreement secretariats are not attributed to the parent Convention.

- 7.2 In keeping with the model adopted for Europe, Parties to Agreements developed in other regions should consider consolidating secretariat functions for one or more Agreements in regional centres which would facilitate links to the CMS Secretariat and, where appropriate, to existing organisations specialised in the conservation of migratory species. (Parties to Agreements)**

To date, there are no CMS Agreements centred in other regions for which a secretariat has been created.

- 7.3 The personnel of the Secretariat should be augmented as far as financial resources permit to improve delivery of services in relation to technical and scientific matters, developmental and organizational activities, and liaison with other biodiversity-related conventions and organisations. The geographic and linguistic balance within the Secretariat should be improved in order to strengthen its capacity in regions not adequately represented. Regional**

officers for Africa and Asia should be recruited through secondment. Parties should assign to the Secretariat, at their own cost for periods of at least one year, personnel capable of undertaking specialized tasks that would otherwise not be possible to carry out.
(Parties, Secretariat, UNEP)

Following UNEP's agreement in 1997 to provide CMS with a Administrative/Fund Management Officer, financed entirely from overhead charges, recruitment of the post was finalized in March 1998, thus strengthening the administrative capacity of the Secretariat, particularly in relation to project and fund management. It has proven more difficult to recruit a suitable candidate to fulfill all the functions of an Information Officer. In larger secretariats, these tasks (ranging from the more technical, "Web-master" type function, to production of publications and other materials, and "higher order" press-media relations) tend to be assigned to a number of different posts. It is hard to find in any single individual the required technical skills to perform all of these functions adequately, not to mention having appropriate linguistic skills. It is for this reason that a separation of tasks is proposed in the new structure for the Secretariat.

The Secretariat's capacity for liaison with other biodiversity-related conventions and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations has not improved, and continues to restrict its ability to seek the kinds of synergies that might otherwise be possible. Efforts were made in July 1998 to recruit from UNEP, on a temporary basis, an officer specialised in GEF matters. The UNEP Executive Director decided instead to assign the candidate to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Montreal.

At present, the linguistic balance within the Secretariat is in need of improvement, as there are no native French- or Spanish-speaking Programme Officers. Staff with appropriate language skills are needed to assist with occasional informal translations of texts, where it would be inefficient to rely always on external translators, as well as proofreading of documents received from translators. Efforts to strengthen the geographic balance within the Secretariat have been only partially successful. Among the professional staff, there is presently representation from Europe, North America and Africa; and the continents of Asia/Oceania and Europe are represented among the administrative support staff. As reported elsewhere, efforts to recruit, through secondment, officers with responsibility in programmatic matters for Africa and Asia were not successful and, thereafter, were impeded by the UN General Assembly rules on *gratis* personnel.

The Secretariat has benefitted, for a limited time, from the secondment of staff from Party Governments, thus reinforcing the capacity of the Secretariat in specific areas and helping it to pursue activities that might not otherwise be undertaken.

United Kingdom

The Government of the United Kingdom extended its support to the Convention secretariat by seconding a full-time replacement for Mr. Eric Blencowe, who had been assigned to CMS on a part time basis, while carrying out his duties as the Secretary of Eurobats secretariat, from 1 January 1996 to 30 September 1998. Mr. Robert Vagg was assigned to Eurobats/CMS from 1 October 1998 to 1 October 2000 (with a possible extension through 2001). In his capacity as Special Projects Officer, he deals with matters of common concern to CMS and related Agreements and activities in Europe warranting a co-ordinated contribution by CMS and the Europe-based Agreements. In addition, he carries out other specialized tasks in relation to the organization of meetings (with most of his time in 1999 devoted to COP6 organization), promotes increased involvement of UK-based non-governmental organizations in CMS activities, and more generally seeks to enhance United Kingdom involvement in and sponsorship of CMS conservation activities.

Germany

Mr. Suhel Al-Janabi has been assigned to CMS as a German Liaison Officer since 1 October 1998, against a job creation measure supported by the City of Bonn for a period of one year (renewable to two years). While CMS contributes 25% to Mr. Al-Janabi's salary, the rest of the financial commitment to employ Mr.

Al-Janabi is borne by the German labour administration. Mr. Al-Janabi brings to the Secretariat knowledge and experience in the field of public relations through his contacts with German NGOs and the German media. Among his responsibilities is the development of an outreach programme to build public awareness on the issue of migratory species in Germany and to encourage German-based NGOs to promote nature conservation projects in Eastern and Central Europe.

Dr. Eugeniusz Nowak was seconded from the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) as a scientific advisor to the Secretariat from June 1993 until his retirement in June 1998. The CMS Executive Secretary initiated discussions with the German Government for his replacement and, in principle, this was agreed by the then State Secretary of the Ministry of Environment in September 1998. However, in the light of ongoing discussions regarding the provision of gratis personnel to the United Nations, UNON's Chief of the Division of Administrative Services advised the Executive Secretary to suspend recruitment efforts of this kind. The Executive Secretary has informed the Ministry and the Nature Conservation Agency that no action or decision can be taken before receiving further instruction from UNON.

Finally, the Secretariat has supported and benefitted from a modest internship programme, to the extent that its resources have allowed for supervision of young interns with backgrounds in, for example, science, geography and law for relatively short periods of time. Additionally, in 1998 the Secretariat accepted the assignment, for six-months, of a young lawyer from the German Environment Ministry who sought to gain experience working in an international organization.

OBJECTIVE 8: STRENGTHEN INSTITUTIONAL LINKAGES

8.1 CMS should strengthen or establish new partnerships with the institutions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and with other biodiversity-related conventions, regional agreements and programmes *inter alia* by:

- (a) implementing the MoU concluded between the secretariats of CBD and CMS (*Secretariat, Parties*);**

Substantial linkages with the Convention on Biological Diversity have yet to be developed, in large measure due to limitations in capacity. Within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding between the respective convention secretariats, the CMS Secretariat has attended all of the meetings of the CBD COP (although only part-time) and has submitted progress reports and/or welcoming addresses to each meeting. It has also been represented, either by its own officers or by others, at meetings of the subsidiary body (SBSTTA). Furthermore, the CMS Executive Secretary wrote to the CMS Focal Points with recommendations on how to proceed on the issue of an integrated approach to implementation of both conventions, including CMS Agreements.

The CBD Secretariat was represented, for the first time, at the CMS COP 5 (Geneva, 1997); and there have been contacts between the two secretariats at a technical level in relation to the work on a harmonized information resource among all biodiversity-related treaties. Apart from this however, there has been little initiative on the part of either secretariat to implement the terms of their joint MoU. The COP 3 of CBD “*decided in relation to cooperation with CMS to request the Executive Secretary of CBD, in consultation with the CMS Secretariat, to evaluate how the implementation of CMS can complement the implementation of CBD through its transboundary coordinated and concerted action on a regional, continental and global scale*”, however no action has been undertaken so far by the CBD Secretariat. CMS has endeavoured to initiate a study on areas of complementarity of CMS/Agreements and CBD, including GEF issues; however the matter remains in suspense as the CBD Secretariat has declined to participate in the sharing of costs.

- (b) intensifying communication and consultations with other conventions and institutions, relevant for, *inter alia*, the conservation of migratory species (*Secretariat*);**

The following table summarizes the nature of the institutional linkages the CMS secretariat has had with other intergovernmental bodies and programmes.

Name of institution	Description of contacts
Global Environment Facility (GEF)	CMS participation in the first meeting of GEF STAP II and informal agreement to co-operate more closely; up to four CMS projects in preparation and to be submitted soon (see also separate remarks below)
World Bank	Executive Secretary attended a workshop organised for staff of the World Bank and gave a presentation
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>GEF Coordination Unit</u>: increasing work contacts, <i>inter alia</i>: (a) organisation of a seminar in Bonn to inform CMS Secretariat, Focal Points and Scientific Councillors, and NGOs on GEF criteria and project development; (b) support to CMS Secretariat in the development of projects 2. <u>Biodiversity Unit</u>: supported some CMS projects with modest funds (total of USD30,000); apart from this, only minimal contact 3. <u>ELIU (Environmental Law & Institution Unit)</u>: contacts for the negotiation of the CMS headquarters agreement
Ramsar Convention on Wetlands	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MOU between the secretariats on mutual information exchange, consultation and support; exploring potential for joint project initiatives 2. Reciprocal representation at COPs, both Ramsar and CMS; CMS attendance one Ramsar regional meeting (Oceania); 3. Common participation in the harmonized information resource project of WCMC. 4. Staff contacts on several occasions; further consultations needed on preparation of a more detailed work programme through which to implement the MoU between secretariats (first meeting took place in September 1999)
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)	Participation of CMS in meetings of the CITES COP (part-time); common participation in the harmonized information resource project of WCMC; no formal joint work initiatives yet; contacts so far limited to exchange of information between staff members of the secretariats;
World Heritage Convention	Common participation in the harmonized information resource project of WCMC; casual contacts between the heads of the secretariats and a hospitality call of the Executive Secretary of CMS have not yet led to the identification of possible fields of cooperation
Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP)	Participation by CMS in meetings of the SPA protocol and expert working groups established thereunder for cetaceans, marine turtles; participation by RAC/SPA in ACCOBAMS negotiations meetings.
Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats	Regular representation of CMS at meetings of the Bern Convention Standing Committee and attendance of BC staff at some CMS COPs; seeking co-operation and synergies in areas of overlap between the two Conventions, but good intentions have until now been thwarted by capacity limitations on both sides
Programme on Conservation of Arctic Flora & Fauna (CAFF)	Regular contributions from CMS, representation of CMS at CAFF meetings through the Standing Committee representative for (Dr. Boere)

- (c) **intensifying, as a priority, the linkages with CBD and GEF in order to implement the relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties to CBD, as well as developing pilot projects which demonstrate (i) the complementarity of CMS in the implementation of CBD and (i) the basic need to fill the gap in the funding mechanism of GEF for biodiversity-related projects;**

There are two GEF projects under preparation which involve CMS, one entitled *Conservation of the Globally Significant Wetlands and Migration Corridors required by Siberian Cranes and Other Globally Significant Migratory Waterbirds in Asia*. Parties to the CMS Siberian Crane MoU are participating in the preparation of this full-size project which was discussed during the Siberian Crane meeting in Ramsar, Islamic Republic of Iran, December 1998. The other, a medium-size GEF project entitled *Migratory waterbirds as indicators of sound wetland management and conservation in southern South America* involves Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Uruguay, and has been already mentioned in item 2.4. For both projects, the Secretariat is working in close cooperation with the countries concerned, the UNEP/GEF Coordination Unit and some regional and/or international NGOs to develop them. The Secretariat attended a GEF STAP meeting in New York (July 1998) where a more active integration with the technical bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions was discussed and agreed upon.

- (d) **nominating a focal point from both the Standing Committee and the Scientific Council to communicate with the respective bodies of the institutions mentioned above, to participate in their meetings and to report back to the CMS bodies (*Standing Committee, Scientific Council*)**

During the seventh meeting of the Scientific Council (Geneva, April 1997) the following Councillors were identified as CMS contacts with the scientific bodies of the Conventions mentioned below. In the first two cases, the individuals were nominated by the Council and the last two the Councillors volunteered to act as contacts and this was endorsed by the Council.

Ramsar Convention	Dr. Wolff (Netherlands) and Dr. Schlatter (Neotropical expert appointed by the COP)
Convention on Biological Diversity	Dr. Beudels (Belgium). (Dr. Sylla, Senegal, was also appointed but since then, he has resigned as Councillor.)
IWC	Dr. Perrin (expert on cetaceans appointed by the COP)
CCAMLR	Dr. Torres Navarro (Chile)

The Standing Committee has yet to formally nominate focal points to observe meetings of other institutions.

- 8.2 **The Standing Committee should negotiate with UNEP (through its Governing Council) on support for the implementation of CMS (as already promised in 1994) and the inclusion of some of the strategy action points in its programme of work. UNEP should also actively support the recruitment of new Parties and the establishment of partnerships with the institutions mentioned above. (*Parties, Standing Committee, Secretariat*).**

Since early 1995, UNEP's support for the implementation of CMS, including recruitment of new Parties, has improved. The Secretariat reports with satisfaction that the following was achieved:

- Financial support for the organisation and holding of the negotiation of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) in 1995;
- financial assistance for the CMS projects on Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes, Andean Flamingos, Siberian cranes, Slender-billed curlews in 1997-1998;
- funding of the Administrative/Fund Management Officer as of February 1998;
- letter of recommendation in November 1997 to all countries of the pan-European region not yet Parties to CMS to accede to the Convention and relevant sub-Agreements; and
- co-sponsoring of a June 1998 seminar on GEF project development (see note elsewhere)

Also, the Secretariat has made several proposals to UNEP to include projects for the implementation of CMS in its work programme, including for example pilot projects for the advanced implementation of the AEWa in Africa. The latter is now being taken up within the framework of an independent consultancy. It is recognized that the restructuring of UNEP and its own financial difficulties in recent years have hindered its capacity to provide support to smaller conventions, such as CMS. If these problems have been overcome, perhaps it will be in a better position to support further initiatives of the kind envisaged above.

8.3 Specialized non-governmental organizations should be encouraged to play a more active role in the Convention, particularly by providing scientific advice, assisting in promotional activities and implementing projects for migratory species. The Secretariat should hold at least one intersessional meeting with NGOs, and individual Parties should also consult and, where appropriate, make use of NGOs in implementing the Convention. (NGOs, Secretariat, Parties)

The following table summarizes the nature of the institutional linkages the CMS secretariat has had with other intergovernmental bodies and programmes.

Organization	Work relationships to date
Wetlands International (WI)	<p>Regular contacts (especially with the three regional organisations: Americas, Africa-Europe-Middle East, Asia-Pacific), based in part on the terms of a MoU; a more detailed work programme needs to be elaborated. A desired strengthening of ties with WI-AP, especially for promotion of CMS in that region, has not yet materialised due to restructuring within that organization and, thereafter, the preoccupation of the CMS Secretariat with COP6.</p> <p>The former Director of WI AEME (Dr. M. Moser) is Conference-appointed expert for birds of the Scientific Council. In the last Board meeting WI invited the CMS Secretariat (also CBD Secretariat and Ramsar Bureau) to accept a permanent official observer status</p>
BirdLife International (BLI)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provides secretariat for Slender-billed curlew Working Group created under CMS. 2. Submitted draft paper to Scientific Council on policies relating to the use of satellite telemetry. 3. Agreement to review two CMS action plans for Appendix I species and a project about the Lesser White-fronted Goose, being developed by the Norwegian BLI partner 4. BLI was represented at CMS COP5 (Geneva, 1997), and has registered for COP6 5. Several contacts at meetings, e.g. Bern Convention, PEBLDS, Wetlands International, CBD COP, but no special fields of cooperation developed (except no. 1. above) 6. Development of a MoU for the Aquatic Warbler (CMS Appendix I species) <p>Still pending: a meeting to discuss in more depth potential for further BLI involvement in and support to CMS (and AEWa) initiatives, including its partner organizations, as requested in a May 1997 discussion between the CMS Executive Secretary and Head of BLI, Dr. Rands</p>
IUCN- World Conservation Union	<p>Some working relationships in specialized areas, but there remains room for growth in terms of the level of involvement of IUCN in CMS activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. IUCN-Environmental Law Centre has carried out regular consultancy work for CMS on international legal issues (legal review of draft Agreements, MoUs and elaboration of Guidelines for the Harmonisation of Future Agreements (ongoing); this work has been carried out so far through a consultancy on the basis of a MoU, the continuation of which is under discussion. 2. Periodic contact with the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) and certain specialist groups such as those for the Houbara bustard and Marine turtles.

WWF	Minimal involvement in CMS matters
WCMC	Long-standing, close working relationship; maintains CMS Web Site; has been engaged to carry out several CMS consultancies (eg. Review of Appendix I, preparation of country profiles, marine turtles GIS application, CMS Information Management Plan.)
IRSNB	Engaged as a consultant to CMS for activities related to Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes and Slender-billed curlew; also the Scientific Councillors nominated by the European Union (EU) and Belgium are staff members of IRSNB
International Crane Foundation (ICF)	Cooperating organization in the Siberian Crane MoU; critical role in the development of a GEF project (in progress); contracted to produce an educational video on Siberian crane conservation
EURONATUR	CMS has had regular contacts with German-based EURONATUR, which is carrying out a small number of projects with reference to the implementation of CMS and related Agreements (and, as far as relevant to CBD and Ramsar), e.g. establishment of a National Park in Albania (Lake Prespa), restoration of a swamp area in northern Ukraine (Polesje), safeguarding of bunkers for hibernation of Bats in the border area of Poland/eastern Germany
Alexander Koenig Museum	Global Registry on Migratory Species (GROMS); CMS displays; <i>Serinus syriacus</i> project (consultancy)
National Park Service, Argentina	Activities with Andean Flamingos and Andean Deer
Peruvian Centre for the Study of Cetaceans	Cetacean research in West Africa
Fundacion Patagonia Natural	Activities with the Franciscana Dolphin
CIC - Migratory Bird Commission	Attended CMS COP 5 (Geneva 1997); provided funds through CMS for an expedition for the detection of the Slender-billed curlew breeding area in Siberia
FACE	Attended CMS COP 5 (Geneva 1997); cooperated with EC-Commission, IRSNB, German Nature Conservation Agency and CMS Secretariat in the production of a brochure to raise awareness of hunters for the problems of the Slender-billed Curlew
Global Nature Fund	This recently established German-based foundation with international project activities endeavours, <i>inter alia</i> , to link its activities to CMS and migratory species.

Additionally, a one-day seminar on Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) was held in Bonn in June 1998. It was moderated by the CMS Executive Secretary, and Mr Ahmed Djoghla, Executive Co-ordinator of the UNEP/GEF Coordination Unit. Representatives of German and some international NGOs, CMS focal points and Scientific Councillors took part in the seminar. Major issues discussed were the role of UNEP as one of the implementing agencies of GEF, the actual or potential role of NGOs in assisting implementation of CMS, how CMS is linked to the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the participation of NGOs in GEF projects. A number of priorities were identified, and the procedures for submission of projects to GEF were explained in detail.

Annex 1: List of formal presentations, welcoming addresses made by CMS staff at meetings/events organized by others (1997-September 1999)

Name of the Meeting	Venue, Date
ASEAN Symposium and Workshop on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation	Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, 15-17 July 1999
UNEP/IUCN Workshop on Legal Aspects of Implementation of Biodiversity-related Conventions	Kokshetau, Kazakstan, 7-11 June 1999
IWC 51	Grenada, 24-28 May 1999
Migratory Waterbird Conservation Committee and associated meetings	Kuala Lumpur, 26-28 February 1999
Latin American Working Group Meeting	Uruguay, 12-21 December 1998
Ramsar Oceania Regional Meeting	Hamilton, New Zealand, 1-4 December 1998
18 th Standing Committee Meeting of Bern Convention	Strasbourg, France December 1998
WWF Large Herbivore Initiative Workshop	Lelystad, Netherlands, 18-20 November 1998
5 th MEDMARAVIS Symposium	Gozo, Malta, 28 September - 4 October 1998
Regional Workshop on National Biodiversity Planning	Manama, Bahrain, 12-14 October 1998
1 st Meeting of the STAP II, Global Environment Facility	New York, USA, 13-17 September 1998
Pan-African Conference on Sustainable Integrated Coastal Management	Maputo, Mozambique, 18-25 July 1998
3rd Ramsar Pan-Africa Regional Meeting	Kampala, Uganda, 6-10 July 1998
Coordination Meeting - Convention Secretariats	Geneva, Switzerland, 3 July 1998
Fourth "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conference	Århus, Denmark, 23-25 June 1998
Ramsar European Regional Meeting	Riga, Latvia 3-5 June 1998
4 th Session COP of the Convention of Biological Diversity	Bratislava, 4-15 May 1998
International Wildlife Law Conference	Washington, USA, 30 March - 3 April 1998
18th International Sea Turtle Symposium	Mazatlan, Mexico, 3-7 March 1998
Conference "The Green Backbone of Central and Eastern Europe"	Cracow, Poland, 24-28 February 1998
Workshop on the Conservation of Sahelo-Saharan Ungulates	Djerba, Tunisia, 18-25 February 1998
Training workshop for the management of wetlands	Jujuy, Argentina, 16-20 February 1998
Franciscana Dolphin Workshop	Buenos Aires, Argentina, December 1997
Wetland Workshop	Lima, Peru, 4-6 December 1997
Progress report to the Bern Convention's Standing Committee meetings	Strasbourg, France, December 1997
Sub-regional Marine Turtle Workshop	Libreville, Gabon, 1-9 December 1997
3rd Meeting of Pan-European Biological Landscape Diversity Strategy	Geneva, Switzerland, 20-21 November 1997
IWC 49	Monaco, 10-24 October 1997
First Session of the COP: Convention to Combat Desertification	Rome, Italy, 29 September - 10 October 1997

49th Meeting Scientific Committee (International Whaling Commission)	Bournemouth, UK, 29 Sept - 11 October 1997
UNEP/UNDP Workshop on Incorporation of Conventions Related to Biodiversity into National Laws	Maputo, Mozambique, 29 June-04 July 1997
10 th Session of the CITES COP	Harare, Zimbabwe, June 1997
2nd Meeting of Pan-European Biological Landscape Diversity Strategy	Strasbourg, France, 22-23 May 1997
Symposium: Nature Conservation (Inter)national	Vienna, 15-16 May 1997
Group of Experts on Conservation of Birds	Izmir, Turkey, 5-8 May 1997
International Workshop on Wetland and Waterbird Conservation	Beidahe, China, 3-7 March 1997
Indian Ocean Sea Turtle Workshop	Bhubaneswar, India, 13-17 January 1997