



United Nations Environment Programme

برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة • 联合国环境规划署

PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT • PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE

ПРОГРАММА ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ ПО ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ

Report to the thirty-second meeting of the Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, Bonn, 8–9 November 2007

Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared for the 32nd meeting of the Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and provides information on United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) activities in support of the Convention and its agreements since the last meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, which took place in November 2005 in Nairobi, Kenya. The report also describes administrative support to the Convention provided by the United Nations Office at Nairobi.

I. UNEP substantive support to the convention

A. Compliance with and enforcement of multilateral environmental agreements

2. UNEP, jointly with the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, supported a capacity-building project for the development of harmonized legislation (i.e., holistic legislation grouping and harmonizing all legal matter relating to biological diversity) for the implementation of four global and one regional multilateral environmental agreements related to the management and protection of biological diversity in the Organization's member countries. The biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements included both global agreements and a protocol, namely, the Convention on Migratory Species, the World Heritage Convention, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and the Protocol to Amend the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, Especially as Waterfowl Habitat. UNEP and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States have already identified three countries in which to implement the project in order to gather experience that can be replicated in the other countries.

3. In cooperation with the Environmental Law Institute and jointly with the Government of Liberia, UNEP supported the elaboration of integrated harmonized legislation on implementation of biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements. UNEP has provided assistance to the Government of Liberia in revising its legislation and regulations to incorporate that country's international commitments, including relevant provisions of multilateral environmental agreements and other international environmental law, into its national law. Draft legislation, prepared by Green Advocates and UNEP jointly with the Environmental Law Institute, was revised and finalized. Liberia has been enforcing the law since its adoption in October 2006.

4. In addition, UNEP, in collaboration with the International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement, developed indicators for assessing compliance with and enforcement of the Convention on Migratory Species, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Convention, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species and the Ramsar Convention. Those indicators have been tested in Brazil, Costa Rica, Kenya and South Africa.

5. UNEP, in cooperation with the International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement, is also promoting the Lusaka Agreement on Cooperative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora through the development, direction and distribution of documentary film relating to Lusaka Agreement Task Force activities.

6. To assist countries to meet challenges in the implementation and enforcement of multilateral environmental agreements, UNEP has produced the Manual on Compliance with and Enforcement of Multilateral Environmental Agreements. This comprehensive manual was launched in Geneva at the

commemoration of World Environment Day in June 2006. The manual is a resource that will be useful in teaching and researching. It is structured as an annotated commentary on the UNEP Guidelines on Compliance with and Enforcement of Multilateral Environmental Agreements and uses clear, simple language. It includes explanatory text, case studies, checklists, references to additional resources and annexes with supplementary information.

B. United Nations Environment Programme - World Conservation Monitoring Centre

7. The UNEP project “Knowledge Management among Biodiversity Conventions” addresses two specific areas where UNEP is in a position to develop and strengthen capacity for multilateral environmental agreement implementation: knowledge management and national reporting to conventions and agreements. These areas have been discussed at a series of workshops, convened by the UNEP Division of Environmental Law and Conventions in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species and the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre in Cambridge, United Kingdom, in June 2006. The workshops brought together the secretariats of the Convention on Migratory Species and two of its agreements and memorandums of understanding (the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement and the Indian Ocean South-Asia Marine Turtle Memorandum of Understanding), the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species and the Ramsar Convention, as well as representatives of other organizations.

8. Following from these workshops, the UNEP Division of Environmental Law and Conventions, in collaboration with the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, has been working with biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreement secretariats to develop knowledge management tools aimed at reducing the burden on the Parties to those agreements in implementing them and to strengthen their capacity for implementation. In this regard, UNEP has developed a number of draft outputs, which are currently being reviewed by the secretariats involved, with a view to finalizing the products by the end of 2007. In particular, UNEP has:

(a) Developed a first draft of an on-line system for national reports under the Convention on Migratory Species and the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement as well as the biennial reports to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species;

(b) Drafted a proposal for a harmonized multilateral environmental agreement national reporting mechanism through identifying joint reporting elements and establishing links for the Convention on Migratory Species, the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement, the Indian Ocean South-East Asian Marine Turtle Memorandum of Understanding, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species and the Ramsar Convention. A draft joint reporting framework for the Convention on Migratory Species, the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement and the Indian Ocean South-East Asian Marine Turtle Memorandum of Understanding has been developed. In addition, a thematic joint reporting framework on inland waters has been established for the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Convention, while a joint reporting framework on drylands has been drafted for the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

(c) Established a first draft of a single searchable web portal providing links to key documentation of biodiversity-related conventions, including the Convention on Migratory Species, the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement and the Indian Ocean South-East Asian Marine Turtle Memorandum of Understanding as well as the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species and the Ramsar Convention, from one entry point.

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

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

10. In response to decision 23/1 V of the UNEP Governing Council, which called for the Executive Director of UNEP to intensify efforts to support the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements by their Parties, UNEP, with assistance from the Government of Belgium and in cooperation

with the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre, developed issue-based modules for the coherent implementation of biodiversity-related conventions.

11. Based on the hypothesis that the implementation of different multilateral environmental agreements often raises issues of common concern and that more coherent implementation would be enhanced if all actors involved in implementation of such agreements received more structured information, four priority issues were identified by the secretariats of five biodiversity-related conventions (the Convention on Migratory Species, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, the World Heritage Convention and the Ramsar Convention). The four issues are biodiversity and climate change; inland waters; invasive alien species; and sustainable use.

12. The issue-based modules assemble relevant articles of conventions and agreements and decisions and resolutions of their governing bodies pertaining to those four issues. A selection of both global and regional agreements with regard to the four issues were analyzed and integrated to provide structured information in a logical framework for the use of national decision makers and practitioners. The modules are web-based and can be found at (<http://www.tematea.org>). They are being tested by pilot countries in Africa (Morocco, Senegal, Seychelles and Uganda) and Europe (Belgium, Hungary, Norway and the Russian Federation).

D. Great Apes Survival Project activities with the Convention on Migratory Species

13. UNEP through the Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP), continues to implement a number of activities jointly with the secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species. The secretariat has been coordinating the development of a new agreement on the protection and conservation of gorillas in ten African gorilla range States. UNEP provided legal support and advisory services for the development of this agreement, which was adopted and signed on 26 October 2007 in Paris, France.

14. Great ape range States have continued to endorse and develop national great ape survival plans since 2005. Countries with gorillas include the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Republic of the Congo, which finalized their plans in 2005, and Uganda, which finalized its plan in 2006.

15. Responding to a request from the Minister for the Environment, Water and Forests of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, UNEP sent a scoping mission to that country in September 2007. The mission explored how UNEP could assist the country's Government with a number of environmental issues, including environmental law, protected area management and the specific situation in the Virunga National Park, where mountain gorillas have been killed in various incidents since January 2007. UNEP is currently considering a number of potential interventions ranging from legal support to the Government and assistance to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in responding to a firewood crisis in the internally displaced peoples' camps next to the Virunga National Park to stakeholder dialogues and a post-conflict environmental assessment.

16. An intergovernmental meeting between great apes ranges states and UNEP was successfully held from 5 to 9 September 2005 in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, under the patronage of President Joseph Kabila. The outcomes of the meeting were the adoption of a global strategy for the survival of great apes, the adoption of the Kinshasa Declaration on great apes, a series of significant pledges of financial support and the full operationalization of GRASP as a World Summit on Sustainable Development type II partnership. The Kinshasa Declaration now has 97 signatories including great ape range States; donor States; non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations; multilateral environmental agreements; individuals and GRASP patrons.

17. The report and documents arising from the intergovernmental meeting on great apes and GRASP are available on the GRASP website at <http://www.unep.org/grasp/Meetings/IGM-kinshasa/Outcomes/index.asp>.

18. GRASP is also working with other biodiversity-related conventions to further the cause of great apes protection within the ambit of each convention. They include:

(a) *The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species* Following adoption by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention of a resolution on trade in and conservation of great apes in 2004, technical missions to Indonesia, Cambodia and Thailand have been undertaken to African and Southeast Asian great ape range and consumer States. This has resulted in improved enforcement of great ape legislation. For more information on the missions, visit <http://www.unep.org/grasp/partners/biodiversity.asp>;

(b) *World Heritage Convention* Through collaboration between GRASP and the World Heritage Convention secretariat, interventions have been put in place to halt encroachment on protected areas in great ape range States;

(c) *The Ramsar Convention* The GRASP and Ramsar Convention secretariats are producing a documentary film to highlight links among wetland sites, great apes and humans in coastal Gabon.

E. The UNEP Regional Seas Programme

19. The UNEP Regional Seas Programme continues to collaborate with the Convention on Migratory Species, in line with Strategic Direction 5 of the Global Strategic Directions for 2004–2007: “Increase the use of regional seas as a platform for developing common regional objectives, promoting synergies and coordinated regional implementation of relevant multilateral environmental agreements, global and regional initiatives and responsibilities of United Nations agencies and other international actors as a contribution to the sustainable management of the coastal and marine environment.”

20. UNEP Governing Council decision 21/28 on further development and strengthening of the regional seas programmes, in paragraph 11 of section C on collaboration with global environmental conventions and related international agreements, invites the Convention on Migratory Species to involve relevant regional seas programmes at an early stage in developing and implementing regional agreements related to the Convention affecting marine species and marine mammals. At the Eighth Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans, the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Migratory Species highlighted that the Convention’s activities related in a number of ways to other multilateral environmental agreements and included collaboration with the regional seas and other conventions.

21. In 2007, the Regional Seas Programme and the Convention on Migratory Species signed a memorandum of understanding to support the Convention’s Dugong Conservation and Management Initiative. Under this agreement, two main outputs are to be developed. The first is the establishment of a national dugong conservation strategy and action plan for Indonesia; the second activity is the development of a pilot project in one of the States across Dugong’s migratory range and dissemination of the results and recommendations from the project among concerned range States.

22. Furthermore, the Regional Seas Programme, in collaboration with the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, the Blue Ocean Institute, the Moore Foundation, Project Global, the Consortium for Wildlife Bycatch Reduction and the New England Aquarium, developed a joint publication in 2007 entitled: *Shark Depredation and Unwanted Bycatch in Pelagic Longline Fisheries: Industry Practices and Attitudes, and Shark Avoidance Strategies*.

F. Memorandum of understanding on the conservation and management of marine turtles and their habitats of the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia, concluded under the auspices of the Convention on Migratory Species

23. The secretariat of the Indian Ocean South-East Asian Marine Turtle Memorandum of Understanding (IOSEA) has been participating actively in a knowledge management project organized through the UNEP Division of Environmental Law and Conventions and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre and IOSEA has been breaking new ground with an innovative online reporting system, the latest version of which will be launched in the fourth quarter of 2007.

24. In addition, the UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific has provided office space and essential administrative support and is absorbing many of the secretariat’s basic operating costs. The affiliated UNEP Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific hosts the Memorandum of Understanding website (www.ioseaturtles.org) and has always been responsive whenever basic maintenance is required. The secretariat would not have been able to function as effectively as it has without this additional generous in-kind support.

G. Regional implementation workshops

25. The UNEP Regional Office for West Asia is providing technical input to the Environment Protection Authority of Yemen on implementation of the Convention on Migratory Species and the Ramsar Convention. The two organizations have together prepared a draft project proposal on developing a strategy for implementation by Yemen of the Convention on Migratory Species, which was presented to the meeting held in Bonn, Germany on 17 January 2007 to celebrate the accession of Yemen as the 100th Party to the Convention on Migratory Species.

26. The UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and Caribbean supported the organization of the first Regional Workshop for Latin America and Caribbean Decision Makers, which took place in Panama City, Panama, from 25 to 29 August 2007. It also participated in the launching of the Year of the Dolphin in Panama on 27 August 2007 as part of the activities of the first Regional Workshop for Latin America and Caribbean Decision Makers.

H. UNEP-Global Environment Facility Siberian Crane wetland project

27. The Convention on Migratory Species Memorandum of Understanding Concerning Conservation Measures for the Siberian Crane provides an international policy framework for coordinating conservation measures for this critically endangered species. The Parties to the memorandum of understanding meet biennially to review and prepare two-year conservation plans for the three known populations of Siberian cranes. At their third meeting, the Parties decided that a large scale international project should be developed and submitted to the Global Environment Facility to support the implementation of the conservation plans. General information on the project can be obtained from its public website: www.scwp.info and the Siberian crane flyway coordination website www.sibeflyway.org.

II. United Nations Office at Nairobi administrative support to the convention

A. Convention on Migratory Species administrative issues

28. UNEP and the United Nations Office at Nairobi continue to work closely with the Convention secretariat, providing administrative services to the secretariat and support and guidance on all administrative and financial issues.

29. In line with Governing Council decision 23/4, UNEP as trustee has continued its effort to improve the flow of financial information to ensure that UNEP-administered convention secretariats have up-to-date and accurate information. Installation of the United Nations Integrated Management Information System was completed in 2006 and extensive training courses were organized on site and at UNEP headquarters in 2006 and 2007 for administrative staff of UNEP-administered conventions secretariats.

B. Accounting and financial management services

30. The UNEP Division of Environmental Law and Conventions has during the period 2006–2007 provided direct financial support in the amount of \$115,000 toward activities under the Convention on Migratory Species and its agreements.

C. Personnel issues

31. The Administrative/Fund Management Officer post has been upgraded from P-3 to P-4.
