

Asia Regional Preparatory Meeting for the 12th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)

15th – 17th August 2017

UN Campus, Bonn, Germany



WORKSHOP REPORT

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1. Workshop introduction

This preparatory meeting was convened by the UNEP/CMS Secretariat to meet the objectives of preparing the Asia region for effective participation in the forthcoming 12th Conference of Parties (COP12) and enhancing regional capacity for CMS implementation activities in the continent.

The meeting built on previous training and pre-COP workshops, and aimed to ensure effective preparation for the upcoming COP12 of Asia National Focal Points (NFPs) and to give them the possibility of developing common positions on priority issues for the region. This was achieved through presentation and discussion of key issues, with time available for the Asia group to make decisions during a closed session.

The European Commission were recognized as Champion Plus for their generous support and commitment towards Building Capacity for Migratory Species Conservation for the period 2015-2018. This activity has been funded with the contribution granted by the European Commission under the Migratory Species Champion Programme and through the Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC Programme) Cooperation Agreements with UNEP.

2. Workshop venue and programme

The workshop was held at the UN Campus in Bonn, Germany in a conference room overlooking the River Rhine. The workshop started at 8:30 on Tuesday 15th August, and ended at 16:00 on Thursday 17th August, following the programme agenda in Annex 1.

3. Workshop participants

Participants comprised CMS NFPs and other representatives from 9 CMS Asia Parties to the Convention, one NGO representative and staff and interns from the CMS Secretariat. As the meeting was held in Bonn, a number of CMS Secretariat staff participated for specific parts of the meeting. Including resource persons, there were 28 participants. A full participant list is given in Annex 2.

4. Workshop opening and resume

Opening

Bradnee Chambers (right), UNEP/CMS Executive Secretary opened the workshop and welcomed participants to Bonn. He stressed the importance of the workshop and the Asia region, which supports a rich diversity of migratory species. Hanah Al-Samaraie presented the aims of the workshop, after which the facilitator, Tim Dodman, led the participant introduction session, when everyone told the group their name, country, workshop expectation, and their favourite migratory species, which ranged from Saiga, Snow Leopard and Caspian Seal to Green Turtle and Whale Shark and to Saker Falcon and Siberian Crane. This session set the scene for an interactive and informal workshop.



Resume

The first technical session of the workshop on 15th August was a presentation on migration and the rationale for protecting migratory species followed by group work to draw the migratory route for different species. There was then an interactive quiz, after which we looked closely at the COP12 agenda, highlighting priority issues for Asia. A session was held on practical COP issues, followed by group work on species amendment proposals, broken by a game on migratory birds and flyways. The evening concluded with a Shark cocktail. On 16th August, there were presentations on generic and institutional issues followed by a closed session. In the afternoon there was a visit to the Zoological Research Museum Alexander Koenig. On 11th August, there was an update from the Central Asian Mammal Initiative before key negotiation points were examined through group work. The focus was then on implementation issues, starting with a presentation from Sri Lanka. There was then further group work on different CMS plans, followed by presentations on and bird poisoning and illegal killing, concerted actions and national reporting. The workshop ended with discussions on preparations for COP12 and beyond, and a group photo. All key issues identified by the participants were covered during the workshop.

5. Workshop account

5.1 Migration, the rationale for protecting migratory species

With the aim of refreshing participants about migration and the various needs to protect migratory species, Tim Dodman gave an interactive presentation that focused on these issues, using an Asia perspective. Issues covered included the definition of migration, migration as a widespread phenomenon, the advantages of migratory behaviour, migration strategies and conservation status conclusions (right).

Conservation status conclusions

A species is likely to be **vulnerable** if it combines:

- Restricted breeding area
- Passes through bottleneck areas
- Birds: Moulting all flight feathers
- Long distance migrant with only a few stop-over sites
- Specialised diet
- Valuable harvest resource
- Prone to specific threats



5.2 'Draw a migratory route' exercise

This was followed by a group exercise in which participants formed four groups, and were asked to draw the migratory route for three different species, namely the Saiga, Demoiselle Crane and Leatherback Turtle and/or Loggerhead Turtle. The groups then presented their routes, which were discussed in turn, along with the various threats faced by each species:



5.3 The role of CMS

The role of CMS was then presented by Hanah Al-Samaraie, highlighting the threats to and contributions of migratory species, and providing an overview of the various CMS instruments relevant for Asia. CBD recognises CMS as the lead partner in conserving and sustainably using migratory species over their entire range. Migratory species which have unfavourable conservation status and which require international agreements for their conservation and management may become subjects of Agreements under CMS. Parties that are Range States of migratory species listed in CMS Appendix II shall endeavour to conclude Agreements where these should benefit the species.

5.4 Team Quiz: Their Future is our Future, Migratory Species & CMS

Tim Dodman then presented an interactive quiz, when the participants grouped into four teams to answer questions about CMS, migratory species and the role of NFPs, with a special focus on the COP12 theme 'Their future is our future'. The quiz was a very engaging activity, generating debate within groups and between groups during the answers session. A prize was presented to the winning team.



5.5 COP12 Agenda & key issues and review of resolutions

Hanah Al-Samaraie presented the CMS COP12 agenda, highlighting key issues for Asia identified by the Secretariat and through responses from Asian NFPs (Annex 3). Participants were invited to adapt this list and highlight the key issues for Asia during a plenary discussion. The only priority issue added by the region was Sustainable Tourism.

Melanie Virtue then gave a presentation on the review of resolutions, which was primarily a housekeeping exercise to tidy up all past resolutions. A resolution provides long-standing guidance, whilst a decision refers to time-bound instructions or recommendations. Resolution 11.6 further recommended that from now on Parties and the Secretariat modify existing Resolutions with new provisions rather than creating a new Resolution on the same subject, as had been done in the past.

5.6 Preparation for COP12: logistics, planning, regional positions and hosting COP13

Hanah Al-Samaraie introduced logistics and planning for COP12, encouraging NFPs to determine national priorities in advance and inform themselves about the Rules of Procedure. It is important to allow time for national consultation and familiarisation with species proposals and decisions. Logistical preparation is also important, including preparation of necessary documents both for the COP and for travel requirements.

Marco Barbieri outlined that the main regional positions to consider are those on the Standing Committee (SC) and reminded participants about the function and mandate of the SC, which includes ensuring that decisions are implemented and monitoring the budget. Election of SC members takes place during the COP. Current members from Asia are Mongolia and Kyrgyzstan.

All Parties also have the opportunity to host a COP, so a short presentation was provided on the key issues involved, so that Parties could consider whether or not they might put themselves forward to host COP13. Responsibilities and costs for the host include local staff, servicing of the COP and High-Level Segment, hosting a welcome reception and ensuring good technical and communication facilities throughout the conference.

5.7 Migratory birds & flyways game

The group then enjoyed a good break from the meeting room through a participatory exercise led by Tim Dodman about 'Migratory birds and flyways'. Several participants played the role of Siberian Cranes migrating from their breeding grounds in Russia through Kazakhstan and other countries to non-breeding areas in India and Iran. The 'cranes' had to find enough food to complete their journey as well as find a mate, in different scenarios, with threats added such as loss of feeding areas, addition of turbines and impact of hunters. The group discussed the game and the threats currently faced by these Endangered cranes, which include oil exploration as a potential threat in western Siberia, agricultural development as a past threat in Kazakhstan, hunting in West Asia and loss / degradation of wetlands. There are water management issues at the cranes' main non-breeding site in India (Keoladeo), and a high pressure on wetlands in Iran, where there is a high density of ricefields and some past cases of accidental shooting.

5.8 Proposals to amend the Appendices of the Convention

Lizza Protas introduced the proposals for amendment of appendices I and II and the process that is involved. Several proposals coming up at COP12 are very relevant for Asia. Tim Dodman set up a group session, forming groups focused on the amendment proposals most relevant for Asia. The groups addressed proposals for three species and developed recommendations, which they then presented in plenary, giving an opportunity to discuss the proposals together in some detail, for which decisions would be made at COP12:

a. Leopard

The Leopard is endangered in Asia, threatened by habitat loss, conflict, loss of prey and illegal killing. It disperses widely according to prey availability, with several transboundary populations. Potential benefits of listing include increased global awareness and international support, facilitation of transboundary reviews and development of regional

conservation strategies for improved transboundary cooperation. There are some (trophy) hunting issues relating to listing, so not all countries may support the proposal.

b. Caspian Seal

The Endangered Caspian Seal is restricted to the Caspian Sea range states of Kazakhstan, Iran, Russia, Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan. Main threats are bycatch, noise disturbance, pollution from the oil industry, accumulation from riverine pollutants, habitat degradation and overfishing of prey.

c. Asian Vultures & Steppe Eagle

Pakistan proposed that four Asian vultures be listed on Appendix I of CMS, namely Indian Vulture, Slender-billed Vulture, White-rumped Vulture and Red-headed Vulture. All vultures in Asia have been suffering serious declines. Saudi Arabia also proposed that the Steppe Eagle be listed on Appendix I. The eagle has strong cultural value in the Middle East and is strongly migratory, facing various threats, including barriers to migration.

d. Sharks

The group discussed seven proposals. The globally Endangered Whale Shark is very important for ecotourism. Dusky Shark has experienced a 75% decline in 10 years, with a 50-99% decline in the Atlantic, mainly due to the fin trade. It is one of the least productive sharks, giving birth to about seven pups every 2-3 years. Blue Shark has shown a 50-80% decline; although it is globally Near Threatened, the Mediterranean population is Critical and there is little to no management across its range. White-spotted Wedgefish occurs in inshore waters and is threatened by fisheries – high value in the fin trade – and bycatch. Migration is likely between Indonesia and Australia. Angelshark is also targeted by fisheries and subject to bycatch, with Critical status; it is largely depleted from its historical range. Common Guitarfish also suffers from the fin trade. Finally, concerted action is recommended for Mobulids, which were listed on Appendices I and II in 2014. Proposed actions follow a global conservation strategy, including working with fishing communities for alternative livelihoods, understanding bycatch threats and identifying mitigation measures.

5.9 Shark Cocktail



The Pew Charitable Trusts hosted a **Shark cocktail** in the evening at the Marriot Hotel, during Ralf Sonntag of IFAW gave presentation of key shark conservation issues and the need for countries to implement conservation action. It was clear that sharks across the globe are widely threatened, and much needs to be done to improve their conservation status. The justification for listing the proposed new species to CMS Appendices was demonstrated, and Asian Parties were encouraged to

actively support shark conservation measures. The cocktail provided a good setting for participants to learn about and share these issues.

5.10 Review process for the Convention, Budget and Plan of Work (POW)

Bradnee Chambers presented the review process of CMS, for which a working group has been formed, charged with discussing a comparative analysis of best practices of existing review mechanisms of MEAs and the feasibility for an existing body within CMS to exercise the functions of a review process (e.g. Standing Committee) and preparing options for a CMS review process. Asia has two representatives on the working group from Saudi Arabia and Iran. Pakistan requested information about the timescale; CMS replied that work should start on the review process within one year.

Bradnee Chambers also presented the budget and POW, highlighting the three options that would be discussed at COP12, as detailed below:

	Option 1: Zero nominal growth	Option 2: Zero real growth (= status quo)	Option 3: Enhanced growth
Based on	Standard salary cost plus 2% inflation across all items		
Fund allocation	No funds for servicing of Governing bodies and translation of documents	Servicing of Governing bodies and translations included	Option 2 plus funds for national report analyses, a 50% IT officer & 18% of P3 upgrade for Common Information Management Unit
Total budget	€7,442,630 (+2% of current)	€7,971,806 (+7% of current)	€8,268,842 (+11% of current)
Implications	Stop of translations, interpretation services, COP report-writing & Core Functions	Translations, interpretation services & COP report-writing & Core Functions covered	

Parties' assessed contributions for each budget scenario increase from Option 1 to 3. During the COP, the POW 2018-2020 will be considered in conjunction with the proposed Budget. The POW is funded through fund-raising. CMS generally raises about one third of its own budget for the POW. During the meeting, Parties were able to see how their contributions would vary between the three scenarios and the benefits and costs each option would offer.. Mongolia recommended going for a win-win situation and recommended option 3.

5.11 Strategic Plan for Migratory Species (SPMS)

Marco Barbieri presented this issue to the meeting. The purpose of the SPMS is to provide vision, leadership, and a driving force toward the full and effective implementation of commitments related to migratory species. The companion volume for SPMS, planned as a dynamic (online) resource, will be presented at COP12, and NFPs are encouraged to trial and comment on it. The main change in the new template is a detailed list of indicators in Annex B. Pakistan sought assurance that the new template was in accordance with the SPMS and questioned who was monitoring the existing plan. Marco indicated that indicators are the main tool for monitoring, along with the national reports.

5.12 Closed Session

Governmental representatives held a closed session for 1.5 hours to discuss pertinent issues relating to COP12.

5.13 Negotiation refresher and Meeting simulation

Tim Dodman gave a short negotiation refresher, highlighting that a true victory in negotiation is one where all parties regard the outcome as fair and equitable, with all interests having been addressed in some way. There followed a meeting simulation focused on the budget, with Asian countries representing themselves, whilst 'actors' represented other countries. A brief overview of the simulated meeting is given in the box below:

The Chair (Mongolia) opened the meeting and invited the CMS Secretariat to present the budget options. Saudi Arabia questioned if there were other alternatives to IT personnel cost. CMS indicated that the IT staff would be shared 2/3 by CMS and 1/3 by AEWA. Some countries recommended to option 3, recognising that translating services were essential and highlighting the need for funds for implementation, such as the new African Carnivore Initiative. A Latin American country indicated that no new initiatives were expected in their region, whilst their contributions were due to increase significantly, giving less incentive to pay. CMS hoped that new initiatives would soon be developed for the LAC Region.

A European country argued for option 1, highlighting its already contributions. Sri Lanka suggested option 3, highlighting the importance of the essential services. CMS recommended not looking at the budget alone but at the POW. Option 1 would require cutting staff, which would lead to a reduction in activities. The POW is based on existing staff, so cutting the budget would also require reviewing which POW activities to cut. Pakistan also opted for option 3, recommending that Parties look at the TORs of the IT post. Another European country also advised option 3, as it would be a problem if CMS had to reduce its work, given the current biodiversity crisis. An Asian country recommended option 2 as a win-win solution, with essential services supported but less significant increases for some country contributions.

Bangladesh highlighted its commitments to guard against biodiversity loss, but expected that option 2 may need to be considered, given the rather high increases for some countries that option 3 involved. CMS indicated that contributions are based on the 2017 UN scale of assessments, adding that the contribution per Party will reduce if more countries ratify the convention. One LAC country mentioned that as its GDP is growing, option 2 represents over a 100% increase in contributions, which was difficult to manage, so it preferred option 1.

The Chair gave some time for negotiations, after which the European country that had earlier selected option 1 now supported option 2. The LAC country that supported option 1 also could now consider option 1, but requested CMS to put a strong emphasis on the LAC region for COP13, especially relating to climate change and migratory species. CMS thanked these countries for their flexibility, and indicated its willingness to work together to find funds for a LAC workshop to explore options for a regional initiative. The simulation ended with a statement from Mongolia, who requested Asian countries to prepare themselves well for COP12 and to be united.

5.14 Afternoon visit to the Alexander Koenig Museum

During a visit to Bonn's noted Zoological Research Museum Alexander Koenig, where Professor Wägele (right), director of the institution, explained the different exhibitions and led a fascinating behind-the-scenes tour. Participants were very impressed by the novel way of exhibiting displays around different ecoregions, so that fauna were shown in their natural setting. They also learned much about the current research programmes being led by the museum, and were interested in the history of the museum, which was at one point housed the then German Chancellor's office.



5.15 Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI)

Christiane Röttger gave a presentation on CAMI. Although this was not being tabled at COP12, it was an opportune moment to update participants about this important regional initiative. The current CAMI Programme of Work runs until 2020, with a goal to improve the conservation of migratory large mammals and their habitats in the Central Asian region by strengthening coordination and cross-border cooperation. Central Asia has many different biogeographical zones, including open plains that support mass migration of land mammals. CAMI provides an opportunity to develop a joint framework to strengthen the collaborative, transboundary conservation of migratory mammals in the region, covering 15 species and 14 Range States. The Programme of Work envisions that *secured and viable populations of migratory mammals that range across the landscapes of Central Asia in healthy ecosystems, are valued by, and bring benefits to, local communities and all stakeholders*. The main issues to address key threats are: illegal hunting and trade, overgrazing and livestock competition, industry and infrastructure development including barriers to migration, governance of natural resource management / policy and legislation, human needs / community engagement in conservation, scientific knowledge and transboundary cooperation.

Recent activities include workshops to (a) address linear infrastructure in Mongolia, (b) identify implementation priorities, (c) develop a species distribution and linear infrastructure atlas, also conservation projects to remove fencing along the trans-Mongolian railroad, atlas mapping and to support the Saiga MOU. Next steps include a mid-term review, a potential large-scale project on mountain ecosystems, a poaching workshop, network developments and awareness raising. There followed a short discussion about mammalian diseases, raised by Saudi Arabia. Pakistan questioned to how far the financial commitment extended; this is secured until 2021.

5.16 Key negotiation points of regional relevance for Asia for COP12

Three groups were formed to discuss key negotiation points in relation to some key issues, reporting later back to plenary:

- *Climate change*

Key problems noted relating to climate change were habitat loss (especially wetlands and rising sea levels) and displacement of animals out of the country due to changed conditions (Bangladesh); drying of wetlands (especially stop-over sites for migratory birds) and desertification (Jordan); and drought and desertification (Saudi Arabia).

There were various needs to address these issues including:

- building synergies
- coordination activities
- increase regional cooperation with exchange of information and experience
- locate funding source for pilot projects
- continuation of research and monitoring
- formulation of more species management plans

Some ongoing activities in Bangladesh include a co-management approach for and an increase in protected areas, protection of five stopover sites, developing a Spoon-billed Sandpiper management plan, several action plans for migratory species (e.g. elephants) and protection of important fish spawning sites.

- *Marine issues*

Bycatch is an important issue in the region, with a revamped resolution. It was important to distinguish between real and incidental catch. It was noted that there is some overlap with the Aquatic Wild Meat resolution. Marine Noise is another key marine issue for decision at the COP. The resolution contains guidelines on information collection for EIAs, and should enable Parties to make informed decisions.

- *CAMI and Migration Atlas*

The group recommended a number of actions for CAMI, including linkage with the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program (GSLAP) to bring mutual benefits, further develop conservation measures for Przewalski's Horse, address research needs and infrastructure issues, accession of more Range States, conduct a donors meeting, develop clear policies on a national level, develop disease prophylaxes and carry out Concerted Actions.

5.17 National implementation of CMS in Sri Lanka

Prasad Arachchige and Daniel Fernando gave an inspiring presentation on the implementation of CMS in Sri Lanka - an island nation with two monsoon seasons, which dictate the migrations of many species. The CMS focal point body is the Department of Wildlife Conservation, and a national law is the main protection tool for wildlife within the judiciary. The main migratory species groups in Sri Lanka are:

- Migratory birds.* The main bird migration period is between August and February, with some birds migrating inland along the main rivers. Some key roost sites have been gazette for protection, whilst HPAI surveillance is conducted, with reports of the existence of Newcastle Disease. Some recent ringing recoveries include Sooty Terns, one of which was ringed as a chick on Juan de Nova in 2008, another as an adult on Aride, Seychelles in 1995.
- Dugong.* Sri Lanka participates in an international Dugong and Seagrass project, conducting a conservation plan. Dugong deaths have been recovered in N and NW coastal zones; an app has been developed to aid monitoring.
- Marine turtles.* Five species of marine turtles nest in Sri Lanka; issues include habitat loss, predation, bycatch and entanglement in fishing gear. Turtles are protected, with engagement of local people at nesting sites.
- Cetaceans.* All cetaceans are also fully protected; challenges include managing ecotourism, for which updated regulations and guidelines are being introduced, and ship strikes, with plans to propose moving international shipping lanes further south.
- Sharks.* At least 13 CMS-listed sharks occur in Sri Lanka, with main issues being targeted fisheries and bycatch. Thresher Shark and Whale Shark are fully protected under the 2015 Shark Fisheries Management Regulations, which also has management provisions for other species, e.g. fins must be attached and live sharks should be released. Legislation is currently lacking to protect mobulid rays.

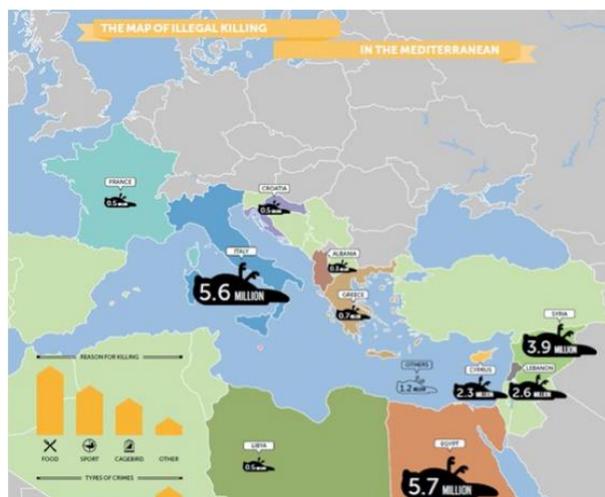


Pakistan asked about law enforcement with respect to migratory species. Sri Lanka informed that monitoring of marine species is carried out by fisheries officials. It took about one year to build in enforcement for Thresher Shark; catching this species now attracts fine of \$400-

\$500. Syria asked about turtle protection measures; the law is strong for turtles and there is no hunting of turtles now, although some egg capture remains. Turtle hatcheries however are partly driven by tourism and need better management; the country is looking into improved ecotourism measures. There is also a lot of development along the coastline that can lead to disturbance of breeding turtles. There are two wildlife rescue centres; beaches are not protected. In Bangladesh NGOs tend to run turtle hatcheries.

5.18 Bird poisoning and illegal killing of birds

Presentations on bird poisoning and illegal killing were given by Borja Heredia and Carmen Naves. The main sources of poisoning are insecticides, rodenticides, poison baits, veterinary pharmaceutical treatments and lead ammunition, fishing weights and other sources of lead. Poisoning constitutes a risk for migratory birds and can severely affect the conservation status of vulnerable species. Poisoning, in its various forms, is the most significant threat to vultures. As a consequence, international measures and concerted actions to address migratory bird poisoning are urgently needed. The Parties should take action, including the dissemination of the *CMS Guidelines to Prevent the Risk of Poisoning to Migratory Birds*, the identification of high-risk areas and the elaboration of national strategies.



The resolution on the Illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds calls on Parties, non-Parties and other stakeholders, including NGOs, to engage in immediate cooperation to address these issues, as well as establishing Task Forces targeted at facilitating concerted action to eliminate illegal killing, taking and trade of shared populations of migratory birds. Illegal killing is a particular issue in the Mediterranean (see right), which is subject of the CMS-led task force, MIKT. CMS is also required through COP 11 resolution 11.16 to support

efforts to address illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds elsewhere in the world. There is currently a proposal for a new task force for the East Asian-Australasian Flyway.

Ralf Sonntag questioned if implementing a lead ban by 2017 was realistic. Borja Heredia replied that, unlike previously, realistic alternatives to lead shot were now available and countries had a legal mandate to enforce its use. This is now in a transition period. Ralf further asked if Diclofenac for humans was being banned. Borja answered that alternatives such as meloxicam are now available, and there is need for a transition period. In Bangladesh, killing vultures is a punishable offence. In answer to a question from Saudi Arabia concerning CMS and OIE, Borja indicated that there was good support in FAO for banning poisons that harmed birds.

5.19 Taking action for migratory species

Three groups were formed tasked with devising a programme proposal on migratory species conservation for presentation for funding. The selected issues were all ones benefiting from conservation action instruments under CMS:

- *Energy & Migratory Species*

Hany Tatwany presented the group's project that focused on mitigating the impact of power lines on soaring birds in a 10km² section of the Red Sea Corridor. This pilot project would guide mitigation at this important bottleneck site. The project would include an EIA and monitoring and analysis, with a total cost of €1 million. The main mitigation methods to be tested would be noise deterrents and varying distance between lines.

- *Conservation of Vultures*

Omer Muhammed presented the proposal 'Conservation of vultures in Asia: implementing the CMS Action Plan'. This 5-year €1 million project aimed to promote vulture recovery and enhance ecosystem services in four countries. The main activities were to identify important vulture areas / hotspots, adopt legislation to ban Diclofenac, elaborate guidelines to manage vulture habitats, monitoring vulture populations, undertake a public awareness campaign, establish a rehabilitation centre and monitor the project. Omer later showed a short video about vultures in Pakistan, which highlighted the pressures they face and conservation efforts.



- *Sustainable Tourism*

Raed Hani presented the group's project titled 'Adventure Aqaba', which planned to protect the north Gulf of Aqaba by promoting alternative livelihoods through ecotourism. Current issues include the control of shipping lines / traffic, overfishing, marine debris and pollution. A baseline assessment (situation & consultation) is needed and a socioeconomic EIA, with external advice. The project would develop infrastructure to enable divers to stay at the site, and would produce guidelines with incentives to use them. The project would provide local employment and education in the marine environment. Marketing would be included to attract customers and partnership development with universities to conduct research and monitor reef health.

After the groups developed their proposals, each one presented in plenary, after which participants voted for their favoured proposal. The vulture proposal won the most votes, and the group received a (fake!) cheque and gift from a (fake!) American oil baron ..

5.20 Concerted Actions

Iryna Dubey gave a brief overview of Concerted Actions (CAs), which are mechanisms to identify species deserving special attention. Eight CAs are to be proposed at COP12; those most relevant for Asia that will be tabled at COP12 are below, with main activities proposed:

- Asian Great Bustard (in Central Asia): Produce an updated action plan, community engagement, law enforcement, protected area expansion and research.
- Arabian Sea population of Humpback Whale: Address knowledge gaps, share information, raise awareness, build capacity and implement mitigation strategies.
- Mobulid Rays: Review conservation strategy, work with communities to address bycatch and promote alternative livelihoods.

- Whale Shark: Research & monitoring, unified tourism guidelines, onboard observers, legislation, address external threats.

Syria questioned why the Great Bustard actions were not proposed for anywhere in the Middle East. CMS answered that the actions had only been developed for the discrete eastern population of Great Bustard. Mongolia has requested China to host the next Great Bustard meeting, which it is hoped might bring them more on board.

5.21 National Reporting

National reporting is one of the requirements of Parties, and the rate of reporting in the run-up to COP12 has improved on previous COPs, reaching a record high, with 66% of Parties in Asia submitting reports. Hanah Al-Samaraie reminded participants about the need for reporting, which is an important means to monitor the implementation of the Convention, with the results used for decision-making and planning. The format of national reports for CMS is online and in the three working languages of the COP. This online reporting system (ORS) is a versatile web-based platform that is flexible and easy to use.

Whilst national reports are important for the Convention and its Secretariat, they also benefit countries by providing a unique framework for data collection and information, a tool for share information and in enabling countries to identify conservation issues that need to be addressed within their country and region. Ultimately, Governments can use the information for decision-making, whilst they and NGOs can use it to prioritise field / conservation activities.

Saudi Arabia and Pakistan indicated that they did use the national reports. However, it takes time to produce the reports – around one month involving 3-4 people in the case of Jordan and two weeks in Bangladesh. CMS aims to streamline the reporting with the SPMS. Mongolia has a Steering Committee to implement the MEAs and ensure reporting; ORS is easier / simpler than before, and about 5 people are involved. Pakistan mentioned two stages to reporting – information gathering, which is devolved to the regional level, and computation; the process takes 1.5-2 months. The CMS template is simpler than for other MEAs. Kyrgyzstan had some difficulties in preparing the report for their first time; one person did it in about three weeks. Saudi Arabia experienced some difficulties using ORS; they prefer to do it on paper first as it involves a lot of stakeholders, and it takes two people about one month. They would prefer a printable user-friendly format

5.22 Communication exercise

Good communication is an important skill for NFPs and others, and the COP and other large events often present opportunities for press releases and interviews. Tim Dodman organised participants into groups, from which a pair would conduct interviews, based around the following initial questions:

- How are migratory species important for the future in your country?
- What issues of the CMS COP12 agenda are most relevant for you?
- What roles do migratory species play in sustainable development?

The interviews were useful and entertaining, especially as the ‘microphones’ were marine mammal toys! Lessons learned included that respondents should make their answers relevant

but also interesting, and should avoid 'lists', e.g. of achievements or actions. It was better to try to focus on some key issues and 'tell a story'. It also seemed that Ariuntuya discovered a potential new career as a journalist!



5.23 COP12 preparation and looking ahead & beyond

During the COP, there would be an opportunity for all Asian countries to meet every morning. Side events relevant for Asia at the COP12 include Saudi Arabia proposals, Red Sea cetaceans, Migration Atlas, Vultures and Amur Falcon, Granges River Dolphin conservation, Saker Falcon, Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs), Lead ammunition alternatives and Sharks. The deadline for submitting proposals for side events is past.

In planning for CMS COP12, participants decided that they would nominate representatives for the budget. Committees will work outside of the Committee as a Whole. Saudi Arabia will send six delegates to COP12 (spread between different groups).

Pakistan questioned about the deadline for registration, which it was answered, had been extended until 15th August for funded delegates, whilst self-funding delegates could register right up to the COP. The Philippines government is preparing to organise for the receipt of visas on arrival; delegates will require invitation letters, which the Secretariat will organise in collaboration with the Philippines government.

In preparation for the COP, Parties need to submit credentials for national delegations and letters of full powers and all supporting documents for signing by their Head of State or Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Full powers indicate that a person is granted authority to negotiate the instrument on behalf of their country. The Secretariat had requested that funded NFPs / delegates submit these documents before they can purchase flight tickets. Jordan considered that this was far too early to launch credentials procedures, it was not possible more than three months before the COP.

Pakistan requested information on the High-Level Panel that takes place the day before COP12, and asked what is required of the NFP. The focal point for this at the Secretariat is Laura Cerasi (laura.cerasi@cms.int), who joined the meeting to explain more about this issue. The panel participants include invited Ministers, with a breakfast and panel meeting. It is hoped that this event will build momentum for migratory species, especially through linking the CMS agenda to main theme of the forthcoming session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA3), which is 'Towards a Pollution-free Planet'. The Government of the Philippines will support the participation of some Ministers.

5.24 Closing session

A short closing session was held to wrap up the meeting. Bert Lenten and Hana Al-Samaraie spoke on behalf of the Secretariat and thanked all participants, colleagues within the Secretariat, the facilitator, technicians and the PEW Foundation. Tim Dodman also thanked Hanah Al-Samaraie and Melanie Jakuttek for their coordination of this and other pre-COP workshops, and noted the excellent contributions of the CMS interns, who surely had bright futures ahead of them. Closing remarks were also made by Ariuntuya Dorjsuren (Mongolia) on behalf of the country representatives, who thanked the Secretariat, facilitator and all participants, and expressed her thanks for participation in the workshop, including the visit to the Alexander Koenig Museum. She looked forward to seeing everyone in Manila and hoped for a strong Asian team to be present.

6. Evaluation

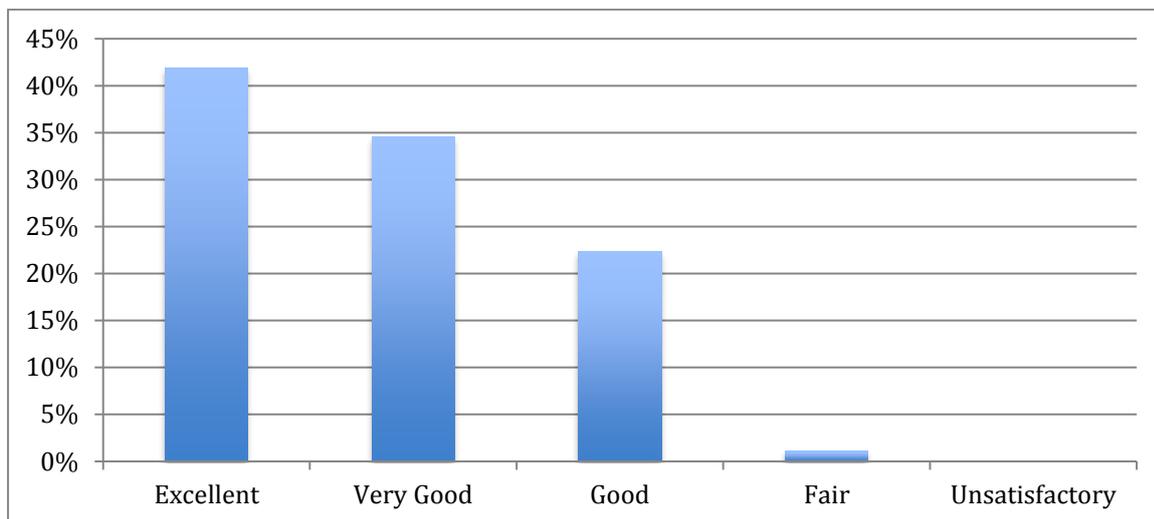
The analysis of evaluation questions revealed a positive evaluation of the workshop, with all participants appreciating the workshop approach and presentation of information for preparing for CMS COP12, with 71% rating it as 'excellent'. The workshop definitely contributed to an improved knowledge / understanding of the COP12 documents, as shown by the pie charts below, demonstrating the value of pre-COP workshops for Asia:

*Participants' knowledge/understanding of the CMS COP documents **before** (left) and **after** (right) the workshop, where **blue** = good, **red** = average and **green** = limited understanding.*



All participants rated the facilitation / training as excellent or very good. Participants rated the presentations and working sessions positively, yielding the ranking shown in the following chart, with 76% of responses recorded as excellent or very good or good. The most popular sessions were the visit to Alexander Koenig Museum, the opening session and introductions, team quiz, workshop opening, the migratory birds & flyways game and the shark cocktail.

Time wise, one participant thought the workshop could have been for five days, whilst all others considered that a meeting of three days was the right length. All participants appreciated the interactive workshop approach and presentation of information, whilst all were satisfied with the support of the UN Environment/CMS Secretariat in preparation of the workshop, including communication.



Comments relating to the workshop and potential improvement included:

- Lodging all participants in a single place will help know the participants' vision, with good interaction among themselves helping to achieve more success.
- Discuss further proposed project drafts.
- All Asian countries should be at this workshop.
- Thank you that I could participate in this great workshop
- Thank you so much
- I would like to thank all of the organizers/secretariat and special thanks to Mr. Tim
- Thanks to all the CMS family for all the service for the success of this workshop.

7. Acknowledgements

The workshop was made possible thanks to a financial contribution from the European Commission under the Migratory Species Champion Programme and through the Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC Programme) Cooperation Agreements with UNEP.

The Secretariat thanks Hanah Al-Samaraie and Tim Dodman for development and delivery of the workshop content, with input from Secretariat staff, also to the administrative and technical support team, especially Melanie Jakuttek. Special thanks go to the PEW Foundation and partners for hosting the enjoyable and informative shark cocktail. All participants are warmly thanked for taking the time to travel to Bonn for the meeting and for their active participation. Final thanks go to the CMS interns, who played an active supporting role in the preparation of the workshop, which also benefited from their participation.

8. Annexes

- Annex 1. Workshop Agenda**
- Annex 2. List of participants**
- Annex 3. Relevant CMS COP12 documents for Asia identified prior to the meeting**
- Annex 4. A selection of photos from the workshop**

Annex 1. Workshop AGENDA

Date	Morning		Afternoon		Evening
Tuesday 15 th August	8:30-09:00: Registration	Migratory Species, CMS & NFP Roles Refresher: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Migration & rationale for protecting migratory species (IL) • Draw a migratory route (GW) • The role of CMS (IL) • Team quiz (PL EX) 	Preparation for CMS COP12: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logistics & planning for COP12 (PL L) • Introduce regional positions (PL L) • Hosting COP13 (PL L) • Migratory birds & flyways (PL EX) 	Species: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendment of appendices: Species proposals (GW/PL): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Leopard b. Caspian Seal c. Vultures & Steppe Eagle d. Sharks 	Shark cocktail
	Opening session: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome & opening • Participant introductions & expectations • Workshop agenda 	Preparation for CMS COP12: COP12 Agenda & key issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COP12 agenda (PL L) • Prioritising key issues for Asia (PL D) • Revision of resolutions (PL L) 			
Wednesday 16 th August	Preparation for CMS COP12: generic & institutional issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review mechanism (PL L) • Budget & POW (PL L) • Strategic Plan for Migratory Species (PL L) 	Preparation for CMS COP12 (closed): As decided by group; expected to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asia working group: functioning • Appointment of representatives • Agreement on priorities & key issues 	Participation at CMS COP12: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negotiation refresher (PL L) • Meeting simulation focused on Budget (RP PL) 	Visit to Alexander Koenig Zoological Research Museum	Option for continuation of closed session meeting
Thursday 17 th August	Participation at CMS COP12: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAMI update (PL L) • Key negotiation points for Asia for COP12: Marine issues / Climate Change / CAMI (GW & PL D) 	Implementation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of CMS in Sri Lanka (PL L CS) • Bird poisoning & illegal killing (PL Ls) • Taking action for migratory species: Energy & Migratory Species / Vulture MSAP / Sustainable Tourism / (GW & PL D) 	Implementation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerted Actions (PL D) • National reporting (PL L & Q&A) • Communication exercise (GW & PL EX) 	Closing session: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boost Asia visibility at the CMS COP (PL B & D) • Looking ahead to COP12 • Evaluation & Close 	

Approx. times: Morning sessions 08:45-12:45; afternoon sessions 14:00-17:30. Lunch 12:45-14:00. Coffee & tea breaks provided.

Abbreviations: PL: Plenary; L (IL): (Interactive) Lecture; GW: Group Work; EX: Exercise; D: Discussion; CS: Case Study; RP: Role Play; B: Brainstorming; Q&A: Question & Answer

Colours: These represent chapter numbers and their respective colours in the CMS Family Manual.

Annex 2. Workshop Participants

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Annex 3. Relevant CMS COP12 documents for Asia identified prior to the meeting

Topic
Strategic Plan & Companion guide
Review mechanism
Budget and POW
Election of appointed o Standing Committee o Intersessional o Sessional
Call for Host of COP13
Concerted actions Asian Great Bustard
Poisoning
Vultures Multi-Species Action Plan
Illegal killing
Trophy Hunting
Listing proposals: Przewalski's Horse, Chinkara Gazelle, Gobi Bear, Leopard, Lesser Grey Shrike, Steppe Eagle, Christmas Frigate Bird, vultures, Lion, sharks
Important Marine Mammal Areas
Energy and Migratory Species
Noise

Annex 4. A selection of photos from the workshop

