



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

Distribution: General

UNEP/CMS/COP12/Doc.18/Rev.1
31 August 2017

Original: English

12th MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
Manila, Philippines, 23 - 28 October 2017
Agenda Item 18

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK 2015-2017

(prepared by the Secretariat)

Summary

For the first time ever a costed Programme of Work (POW) for 2015-2017 was submitted to COP11 (November 2014, Ecuador), where it was discussed and finally adopted through Resolution 11.1 on '*Financial and Administrative Matters*'.

Intersessionally, Reports on the status of implementation of the POW were submitted to the 44th and 45th Meeting of the Standing Committee. This current report covers the period 1 January 2015 until 1 June 2017. Besides reporting on the current implementation status, this Report also indicates the challenges the Secretariat has been facing with respect to some of the foreseen activities and steps to be taken to deal with those issues.

The Rev.1 reflects some minor corrections in the tables in Annex 1.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK 2015-2017

(prepared by the Secretariat)

BACKGROUND

1. Over the years Contracting Parties have expressed the wish to receive more information on how resources are allocated and used by the Secretariat. So far, the Secretariat has regularly reported back to the Subsidiary Bodies of the Convention on its activities and the financial resources used. Stimulated by the discussions at COP10 (November 2011, Norway) the Secretariat presented to the 42nd Standing Committee a draft costed Programme of Work (POW). This draft was approved by the Committee and paved the way for the POW to be presented at COP11. For the first time ever, a POW (covering the period 2015-2017) was submitted to COP11 (November 2014, Ecuador). COP11 thoroughly reviewed and discussed the POW and adopted it through Resolution 11.1 on '*Financial and Administrative Matters*'. The POW is a very important planning tool for the activities to be implemented as it will allow the Secretariat to increase its accountability and provide a clear overview of where the priority for its work lies and what can be accomplished based on available funding. It will also enable the Parties to understand and monitor the work of the Secretariat better. The Secretariat has been using the POW as the framework for reporting back to the Standing Committee and now to COP on its work. Based on the POW the Secretariat drafted annually its Internal Work Plan.
2. At the 44th Meeting of the Standing Committee (Bonn, November 2015) and the 45th Meeting of the Standing Committee the Secretariat reported back through respectively UNEP/CMS/StC44/Doc 13.1 rev1 and UNEP/CMS/StC45/Doc16.1/Rev.1 on the status of implementation of the POW 2015-2017 between 1 January and 1 July 2016. This report provides the current status of implementation of the POW from 1 January 2015 till 1 June 2017.
3. To fully implement the POW, a total amount of approximately €19.5 million (without considering full implementation of COP11 Resolutions) was estimated to be needed, while the core budget only amounted to €7.4 million. From the outset, it was clear that the POW was quite ambitious, and implementing it in full would present the Secretariat with the significant challenge of bridging the gap. The Secretariat did its utmost to implement the POW to the extent possible given the resources available.
4. This Report follows the structure of the POW. The activities in the POW have been grouped under the following headings:
 - I. Executive Direction and Management
 - II. Strategic Plan
 - III. Implementation Support divided into the following areas of activity:
 - III.1 Aquatic Species Team
 - III.2 Avian Species Team
 - III.3 Terrestrial Species Team
 - III.4 Scientific Advisory Services
 - IV. Resource Mobilization and Interagency Affairs
 - V. Information, Communication and Outreach
 - VI. Capacity-Building
 - VII. Servicing of Governing Bodies and other CMS Meetings
5. The headings mentioned above, with the exception of operational costs, reflect the organizational structure of the Secretariat. Each Team has been requested to report back on its activities from 1 January 2015 to 1 June 2017.
6. The Report consists of two parts, these being a narrative report on the status of implementation, and the POW 2015-2017 in tabular form in annex (Annex 1). The latter

provides a brief overview of the status of implementation including some comments and remarks where applicable.

7. The POW was adopted by COP11. Since then some activities, already foreseen in the POW, e.g. implementation of Resolutions adopted by COP11, have been further elaborated and sub-divided into several activities and those that were not foreseen are indicated as new activities.
8. Although it was also the intention to include in the POW 2015-2017 activities that will be carried out by the CMS Project Office in Abu Dhabi, by the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia (IOSEA) and by the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks, there was insufficient time before COP11. However, in the Reports to the Standing Committee, these activities have been included and by doing so the Secretariat presents a better overview of its activities. In the new POW 2018-2020 all the activities, including those implemented under the different MOUs, will be included from the beginning.
9. The amendments mentioned above to the original POW are highlighted in the document.
10. Finally having a POW allows the Secretariat to report back on all its activities under one agenda item instead of doing this at different times throughout the meeting as was done in the past. In particular, the table in Annex I gives a brief overview of the status of implementation and challenges faced by the Secretariat.

Action requested:

The Conference of the Parties is invited to:

- i. Take note of the status of implementation of the POW 2015-2017.

THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POW 2015-2017

I. EXECUTIVE DIRECTION AND MANAGEMENT

Status of implementation

Activity 1¹: Executive Direction and Management

11. The CMS Management provides overall direction to the Secretariat. This is done through regular meetings with teams, on issues or sometimes directly with e.g. the relevant Programme Officer. Monthly management meetings have been taking place involving the whole CMS Family including the AEWA Executive Secretary, the Executive Secretary of EUROBATS, the Coordinator of IOSEA, the Coordinator of the CMS Office in Abu Dhabi and the Heads of the different CMS Teams. These meetings are open to all staff. Improving the planning of activities and organization of work has been and still is a priority of the CMS Management. Some progress has been made and the POW has been used as a tool to make further improvements in this respect. The goal is to increase the level of output. However, it should be noted that the POW 2015-17 was ambitious and that the resources available limited the extent to which the Secretariat was able to implement it. Additional voluntary contributions and/or support from Parties and Partners has made it possible to implement some of the activities foreseen for which no core funding was available. The Secretariat is very grateful for the kind of support received.

Activity 2: Supervising the administrative and financial management of the Secretariat

12. The UN decided to completely re-work the way it manages its administration, in both business processes and information technology solutions. At the centre of this transformation has been the implementation of leading-edge Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software that provides a harmonized and streamlined approach to the following core organizational functions: Finance and Budget Management, Human Resources Management, Workforce Management (Organizational Management, Travel Management, Payroll, Programme & Project Management) and Supply Chain/ Procurement/ Logistics Management. The new system that is now put in place is called Umoja, which means 'unity' in Swahili.
13. The implementation of Umoja has been a major undertaking and had a tremendous impact on the day-to-day work of all staff, but in particular, those that are working for the Administration and Fund Management Unit (AFMU). All Staff had to follow several courses linked to the new roles assigned to them in Umoja. Before migrating the data from the old IMIS system, the AFMU had to clean them up. In May 2015 data were migrated to Umoja and thereafter the Secretariat had to double-check to ensure that no data were lost and had to divide the total amount of funds per Trust Fund into budget lines. It turned out to be extremely difficult and time-consuming for 2015 to split out all expenditures to produce a detailed overview. Since the beginning of 2016 much time has been invested in creating coding blocks which provide a better overview of how the funds were used and the same is applicable for 2017.
14. Unfortunately, the Head of the AFMU left the Secretariat in 2015 to take up a new assignment at the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention Secretariat in Geneva. On 17 August 2015, his successor entered on duty, but for family reasons she had to take Special Leave Without Pay as of beginning of February 2017 for the duration of one year. To replace her during her absence a new Head of the AFMU has been appointed on a temporary basis.

Activity 3: Representing CMS and/ or CMS Family; raising awareness, visibility, etc.

15. The CMS Management has represented CMS and/ or CMS Family at different meetings to raise awareness, increase the visibility of CMS and the CMS Family and to stimulate accession to and increase support for the implementation of CMS and its instruments.

¹ The activity number refer to the number mentioned in the POW 2015-2017 (see Annex 1)

16. On a rotational basis and for the duration of one year, one of the Heads of the UN Agencies takes up the role of Chair of the UN Head of Agencies Forum in Germany. From October 2014 till October 2015 the Executive Secretary of CMS fulfilled this role. In that capacity, he presided over meetings of the Forum and also represented the UN externally at different events.
17. Other Staff of CMS and/ or members of the CMS Family have also attended several international meetings to represent CMS and/ or one or more of its instruments.

Activity 4: Independent analysis of synergies in the CMS Family

18. An independent analysis was commissioned covering the legal, financial, operational, and administrative implications of actions to enhance synergies, such as through sharing services in common service areas. The report focused on the secretariat services provided among the CMS Family of instruments. The report was circulated in advance of the 44th Standing Committee for two rounds of comments by all Parties and members of the governing, advisory and technical committees of the CMS instruments. The collection of comments on the report was made available online for the 44th Standing Committee in document UNEP/CMS/StC44/15.1/Annex 2/Rev.1.
19. The independent analysis was based on an examination of several different sources including a desk analysis of experience within the CMS Family as well as among other multilateral environmental agreements (in particular, the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions), relevant literature from the private and public sector, interviews with stakeholders and policies within the CMS Family and global environmental governance more broadly. The analysis presented three options as follows: 1.) Non-institutionalized efforts at enhancing synergies; 2.) Stepwise sharing of services and 3.) Immediate implementation of all relevant shared services in one step. The consultants presented their findings to the Standing Committee whereby it was decided to adopt a stepwise approach and to work in collaboration with AEWA MOP6. A full report on this item can be found in document UNEP/CMS/COP12/Doc.16.1: Report of Resolution 11.3 Enhancing Synergies and Sharing Common Services among CMS Family Instruments.

Activity 5: Review of Decisions

20. COP11 adopted Resolution 11.6 '*Review of Decisions*' and it has been decided that this activity sits best under Executive Direction and Management. Through the Resolution the Secretariat has been instructed to prepare lists of (1) Resolutions and Recommendations that should be repealed in full, (2) parts of Resolutions and Recommendations that should be repealed and (3) Resolutions that should be consolidated. The Secretariat submitted this list to the 45th Meeting of the Standing Committee (UNEP/CMS/StC45/Doc 19) and with its approval, the final drafts were prepared for submission to COP12 for adoption (UNEP/CMS/COP12/Doc 21.-21.2.13).

Activity 6: Process to Review Implementation

21. COP11 adopted Resolutions 11.7 '*Process to Review Implementation*'. For similar reasons as mentioned above, it was decided to add this activity to Executive Direction and Management. In accordance with the Resolution the Secretariat drafted the terms of reference for a working group (see document UNEP/CMS/StC44/doc16.1) which was adopted by the Standing Committee at its 44th Meeting. The first meeting of this Working Group took place on 19-20 September 2016 in Bonn. A first draft has been submitted to the 45th Meeting of the Standing Committee (UNEP/CMS/StC45/ Doc 18 and the final draft (UNEP/CMS/COP12/Doc 22) is submitted to COP12 for adoption.

Challenges

- To fully implement the current POW more human and financial resources were needed. Raising additional funding has becoming a challenge in itself taking into account the difficult financial situation many of the donor countries are in at the moment.

Next steps

- To further improve internal planning processes and organization of work to increase the level of output
- To further promote and increase awareness about CMS and its instruments
- To identify ways to increase the resources of the Secretariat.

Management of CMS Office - Abu Dhabi²

Status of Implementation

22. CMS Office - Abu Dhabi is the only office of the CMS Secretariat located outside of Bonn. With five full-time posts (P5, P4 (x2), P2 and G6) the Office provides the Secretariat for the CMS Dugong MOU and the Coordinating Unit for the CMS Raptors MOU.
23. Core funding for the Office has been generously provided since 2009 by Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) on behalf of the Government of the United Arab Emirates, and the Office has been accommodated by EAD at its headquarters since that time. In September 2015 EAD secured continuation of funding arrangements until the end of 2019, with an extension to the existing Donor Agreement being signed in May 2016.
24. During the current reporting period, EAD's financial and in-kind investments on behalf of the Government of the United Arab Emirates have continued to provide unparalleled opportunities for CMS Office - Abu Dhabi to undertake carefully targeted activities to support the Dugong and Raptors MOUs in their respective Range States and to promote migratory species conservation in the West Asian region, including undertaking outreach and promoting membership in CMS and its instruments. As described in the subsequent more detailed reports of the Raptors and Dugong MOUs, major initiatives have included holding regular meetings of MOU Signatories, hosting expert group meetings, developing single and multi-species Action Plans and leveraging multilateral finance for various projects. The Office has actively sought opportunities to develop partnerships within the UAE, regionally and internationally, while aiming to support the CMS Family's regional and global interests particularly in the context of addressing common threats to migratory species including birds, marine mammals, turtles, sharks and rays.

Challenges

- The yearly amounts received in core funding will be confirmed annually.
- To Signatories of the respective MOUs to achieve their annual funding target for voluntary contributions agreed at their Meetings of Signatories in order to complement EAD's core financial support and ensure delivery of the MOUs' Programme of Work.

Next steps

- Continue to coordinate closely with EAD on the Office's annual level of core funding.
- Work closely with the Dugong and Raptors MOU Signatories to achieve their annual voluntary contribution targets in order to complement EAD's core financial support and ensure the delivery of each MOU's Programme of Work.
- Continue to coordinate with the UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment with regard to a Host Country Agreement to secure the Office's legal status as well as privileges and immunities.
- Continue to identify and seize opportunities to promote in the West Asian Region the work of and membership for the Dugong and Raptors MOUs, CMS and broader CMS Family.

² This activity was not part of the original POW but shows what has been done by CMS Office - Abu Dhabi.

II. STRATEGIC PLAN

Activity 1 and 2: Strategic Plan Working Group and further development of the Plan **Status of implementation**

25. A call for nominations for the regional members of the Strategic Plan Working Group (SPWG) was made by the Secretariat through Notification 2014/037 of 4 December 2014. Membership of the Working Group was communicated to Parties through Notification 2015/010 of 26 March 2015. A meeting of the SPWG (SPWG-3) took place in Bonn on 12-13 October 2015 back-to-back with StC44.
26. The meeting discussed and agreed plans towards the elaboration of the indicators for the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species (SPMS) and the Companion Volume on implementation, on the basis of a review of the work being undertaken by relevant specialist, international fora on indicators, as well as compilations of programmes of work, action plans and other tools adopted under CMS and CMS Family Instruments, along with their own indicators, compiled by the Secretariat. Further information about the meeting and its documents can be found at <http://www.cms.int/en/meeting/third-meeting-strategic-plan-working-group>.
27. The outcomes of the meeting were reported by the SPWG Chair to StC44, which endorsed them. Subsequently activities were mainly devoted to producing initial drafts for consultation of the indicators for the SPMS and the Companion Volume on Implementation. Thanks to a generous contribution from the Government of Germany, a consultant to support the work on SPWG was hired by the Secretariat. With the aim of providing technical input to SPWG work on indicators, a workshop was convened in London 11-12 February 2016, at the premises of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) of the UK Government. Following the workshop, proposals for SPMS indicators were developed in the form of individual factsheets for each of the SPMS targets. The fact sheets were released for consultation with the Parties and other stakeholders through Notification 2016/008, with comments and contributions requested by 31 August 2016.
28. A revised version of the factsheets was produced taking into account the input received through the consultation process and was submitted to the 4th meeting of the SPWG (SPWG-4) for review. Based on the discussion held at SPWG-3, a zero draft of the Companion Volume on Implementation was prepared by the Secretariat under the guidance of the SPWG Chair. The draft was released for consultation as an online demo to members of the SPWG, the Scientific Council and the Standing Committee in September-October 2016.
29. The 4th meeting of SPWG (SPWG-4) took place in Bonn on 7-9 November 2016 back-to-back with StC45. The meeting assessed progress in the development of indicators for the SPMS and the Companion Volume on Implementation provided guidance towards their further development and agreed on a schedule for their delivery to COP12. Further information about the meeting and its documents can be found at <http://www.cms.int/en/meeting/fourth-meeting-strategic-plan-workinggroup>. The outcomes of the meeting were reported by the SPWG Chair to StC45, which endorsed them. <http://www.cms.int/en/meeting/fourth-meeting-strategic-plan-workinggroup>. The outcomes of the meeting were reported by the SPWG Chair to StC45, which endorsed them.

Challenges

- Arrangements for the support to the SPWG by the Secretariat had to be changed at the beginning of 2015. In particular, the consultancy through which the Secretariat was providing day-to-day assistance to the working group could not be extended due to financial constraints. Responsibility to follow the work of the SPWG was assigned to the Scientific Adviser. This however, came on top of other duties and responsibilities more directly related to the position. With a view inter alia to increase capacity within the Secretariat to follow and support the work of the SPWG, StC44 agreed on a drawdown from the reserve. The resources earmarked for

day-to-day assistance to the SPWG allowed the recruitment of external support in the form of a consultancy until the end of 2016.

- Administrative changes related to the implementation of Umoja have also made it more difficult to arrange for technical consultancy work in support of the SPWG.
- Compilation by the Secretariat to the draft Companion Volume on Implementation has proven very demanding in terms of workload and coordination, requiring significant input from a number of professional staff.

Next steps

- Producing a final draft of the SPMS indicators for consideration and adoption at COP12.
- Producing a revised version of the Companion Volume on Implementation for COP12 consultation.

Activity 3: Amendment of the format of the National Reports to enable the implementation of the Strategic Plan to be assessed.

Status of implementation

30. This activity has been included in the POW to take into account a provision of Resolution 11.2, which requests the Secretariat to consider amendment to the format for National Reports in respect of assessing implementation of the Strategic Plan and those indicators for which such reports are identified as a potentially important source of information.
31. A proposal for a partial revision of the template for National Reports, consisting mainly of integrating questions for the assessment of progress towards the targets of the Strategic Plan, to be used in the COP12 reporting cycle, was submitted by the Secretariat to the 45th meeting of the Standing Committee in November 2016. After some discussion, the Committee decided not to make changes to the template at that stage, but instead to consider one overall revision at a later date. In the meantime, for reporting to COP 12 the existing (COP11) format was to be used, with limited adjustments to take into account only the new Resolutions and species listings agreed by COP11.
32. At the time of writing, a new proposal for the revision of the template for National Report is being prepared, with a view to it being submitted to COP12 for consideration.

Challenges

- Coordination of the revision of the template for National Reports with the schedule for development of indicators posed some challenges, notably in terms of submission of the documentation for the consideration of the StC45 and the implementation of the reporting cycle to COP12.

Next Steps

- Producing a new proposal for the revision of the template for National Reports, for COP12.

III. IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT

III.1 AQUATIC SPECIES

Activity 2. Implementation of Resolutions

Activity 2.1: Res. 10.14 - Bycatch of CMS-listed Species in Gillnet Fisheries

33. A joint CMS/IOTC capacity-building workshop to support the implementation of the Regional Observer Scheme of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) was organized by the IOTC Secretariat in cooperation with the CMS Secretariat and supported by both the Sharks and IOSEA Marine Turtle MOUs. It was hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries of Oman

in Muscat from 18 to 22 October 2015. It provided expert training to support the creation and implementation of observer schemes in Oman, Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran with a specific focus on gillnet fisheries.

34. In April 2016, the CMS Family met for an internal workshop entitled "Exploring Synergies for Addressing Bycatch throughout the CMS Family", organized to allow the exchange of experiences with addressing what is considered the greatest threat to the marine mammals, sea turtles, fish and seabirds that our treaties and Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) were set up to conserve. Representatives of the legally-binding Agreements ACAP, ACCOBAMS, AEWa and ASCOBANS, as well as colleagues servicing the MOUs on Sharks, Dugong, IOSEA Turtles, Atlantic Coast of Africa Turtles, Pacific Island Cetaceans, Western African Aquatic Mammals and Mediterranean Monk Seals, as well as the Pacific Loggerhead Turtle SSAP, explored commonalities as well as differences in terms of species of concern and their protection status, relevant fisheries and gear types, availability of mitigation measures and their uptake by fisheries management organizations. Discussions focused on the potential for synergies between the CMS Family instruments, considering topics such as the development of technical solutions, data collection protocols, mutual support and attendance at meetings of regional fisheries management organizations, sharing of resources such as guidelines and best practice mitigation fact sheets, as well as legislative approaches.
35. As foreseen in the Programme of Work for the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council, the existing bycatch-related resolutions and recommendations were reviewed and consolidated, and the resulting complex draft revised and updated by the Appointed Councillor for Bycatch in collaboration with the Secretariat. The resulting draft is available as UNEP/CMS/COP12/Doc.24.4.4 and reaffirms necessary actions relevant to the conservation of migratory species.

Activity 2.2: Res. 10.15 - Global Programme of Work for Cetaceans

36. The Resolution sets the tasks and priorities for the cetacean-related work of the Aquatic Mammals Working Group of the Scientific Council, which is led by the Appointed Councillor for Aquatic Mammals, the Council itself and the Secretariat. Several now-independent work streams have originated from this resolution:
 - In April 2014, a workshop was held on the conservation implications of cetacean culture, which led to the development of Resolution 11.23 mentioned below.
 - The first meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council (ScC-SC1) considered the relevance to CMS of the work of the IUCN Joint SSC/WCPA Marine Mammal Protected Areas Task Force regarding the identification of Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) (ScC-SC1/Doc.10.4.2.1). This has led to the development of a draft resolution for consideration by COP12 (UNEP/CMS/COP12/Doc.24.2.1).
 - CMS Family Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessments for Marine Noise-generating Activities were developed in consultation with Parties (see also information regarding Res.10.24 below). These are proposed for adoption in document UNEP/CMS/COP12/Doc.24.2.2. This activity has been kindly funded by Monaco under the Migratory Species Champion Programme.
 - ScC-SC1 considered initial information on the impact of aquatic bushmeat on CMS-listed species (ScC-SC1/Doc.10.2.2), and requested that further work be done on the subject, leading to the development of a draft resolution on Aquatic Wild Meat (UNEP/CMS/COP12/Doc.24.2.3).
 - The potential impact of dolphin swim-with programmes on CMS-listed species was also brought to the attention of the Council, and as directed in the Programme of Work, a report and draft resolution on Recreational In-Water Interaction with Aquatic Mammals was developed (UNEP/CMS/COP12/Doc.24.2.5).

Activity 2.3: Res. 11.20 - Conservation of Sharks and Rays

37. The CMS Secretariat continues to liaise with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), Regional Seas Conventions and Action plan (RSC/APs), CITES, civil society and other relevant

stakeholders in order to promote coordinated actions for the conservation and sustainable use of sharks and rays and has started to work on building capacity towards this goal, as further outlined in the section on the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks.

38. In April 2017, the Secretariat participated at a workshop in Mauritius, which was organized by the Indian Ocean Commission and the Nairobi Convention, to assess the conservation status of sharks and rays in the Southern Indian Ocean and to develop a regional roadmap for the conservation and management of sharks and rays, which was presented at the Focal Point meeting of the Nairobi Convention. Moreover, the Secretariat joined the inception meeting for implementing the Strategic Action Programme for the Protection of the Western Indian Ocean from Land-based Sources and Activities (WIOSAP Project). It was agreed between the Secretariats of the two Conventions to collaborate on the implementation of the WIOSAP project, and to invite the Signatories of the Sharks MOU and IOSEA Turtles MOU to provide scientific expertise through their advisory bodies regarding research, the identification of critical habitats for marine species, and the management of protected areas. Further it was agreed to cooperate on capacity-building and awareness raising. In addition, CMS has offered to cooperate with the Nairobi Convention on the inclusion of CMS-listed species in the Protocol Concerning Protected Areas and Wild Fauna and Flora in the Eastern African Region (SPAW Protocol) of the Nairobi Convention, in particular with regards to species of sharks and rays, which are currently not covered by the SPAW Protocol.
39. In July 2016, the Secretariat provided comments to the CITES Secretariat on the listing proposals for marine species for CITES COP17. Comments focussed on the three taxa of sharks and rays which were listed on CMS Appendices at COP11 and are proposed for listing at CITES COP 17. These were also circulated to all CMS Parties as in Notification 2016/018 issued on 29 July 2016.

Activity 2.4: Res. 11.22 - Live Captures of Cetaceans from the Wild for Commercial Purposes

40. The information provided by Parties in response to a questionnaire sent in April 2015 was used to determine the status of implementation of this Resolution (see ScC-SC1/Inf.4, and UNEP/CMS/COP12/Inf.24).
41. Based on the questionnaire responses, best practice guidelines were also developed to assist CMS Parties interested in improving existing national legislation or developing new laws prohibiting the live capture of cetaceans from the wild for commercial purposes and/or in taking stricter measures in line with CITES Article XIV with regard to the import and international transit of live cetaceans for commercial purposes that have been captured in the wild. These are presented in UNEP/CMS/COP12/Doc.24.2.4. This activity has been kindly funded by Monaco under the Migratory Species Champion Programme.

Activity 2.5: Res. 11.23 - Conservation Implications of Cetacean Culture

42. Following a call for nominations sent to the Scientific Council in April 2015, experts on related aspects of a range of taxa have been invited to join the expert group. The Expert Group submitted a progress report to ScC-SC1 (ScC-SC1/Doc.10.4.1) and to ScC-SC2 and COP12 (UNEP/CMS/COP12/Doc.24.4.3), containing a draft decision outlining next steps and making it clear that the focus is now on animal culture and social complexity, not just on cetaceans.

Activity 2.6: Res. 10.24 - Further Steps to Abate Underwater Noise Pollution for the Protection of Cetaceans and other Migratory Species

43. The Joint Noise Working Group, established by the cetacean-related Agreements, ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS, since 2014 also includes CMS and serves its mandates.
44. The Resolution stresses the importance of undertaking Environmental Impact Assessments that take full account of the effects of noise-generating activities on cetaceans and other biota; similar wording is found also in resolutions of ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS. In line with these

mandates, CMS Family Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessments for Marine Noise-generating Activities were developed with two rounds of consultations with Parties, members of the scientific and technical advisory bodies of CMS, ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS, and members of the relevant working groups (UNEP/CMS/COP12/Doc.24.2.2). This activity has been kindly funded by Monaco under the Migratory Species Champion Programme.

Activity 2.7: Res. 11.29 – Sustainable Boat-based Marine Wildlife Watching

45. This resolution calls for the development of dedicated guidelines for different taxonomic groups, differentiated if necessary by geographic areas. For cetaceans, the Secretariat has come to an agreement with the International Whaling Commission (IWC) to develop an Online Whale Watching Handbook jointly, serving the needs of Parties to both treaties.
46. For the other taxonomic groups, namely sirenians, pinnipeds, sharks, rays, birds and turtles, guidelines were prepared for adoption by COP12 (UNEP/CMS/COP12/Doc.24.4.5). This activity has been kindly funded by Monaco under the Migratory Species Champion Programme.

Activity 2.8: Res. 11.30 - Management of Marine Debris

47. With funding provided by the Government of Norway, the leaflet “Oceans Full of Plastic” has been translated into French, Spanish and German. The Secretariat is currently awaiting the printed versions, which are expected to be available by COP12.
48. CMS has also contributed to the development of a Massive Open Online Course on marine litter, which was developed by the Open University in collaboration with UN Environment.
49. As part of the consolidation exercise of the existing two resolutions dealing with marine debris, the Secretariat has also proposed updates and revisions in line with decisions taken in other international fora in recent years (UNEP/CMS/COP12/Doc.24.4.1).

New activity³: Polar Bears (listed on App II at COP 11)

50. The Secretariat is in consultations with the Government of Norway, discussing options for jointly convening an expert workshop on the different sub-populations of Polar Bear, and how the scientific information can be used in policy-making at a global level.

New activity: European Eels (listed on App II at COP 11)

51. The Secretariat, in cooperation with the Government of Monaco and the Sargasso Sea Commission and advice from the IUCN specialist group, convened a workshop on the European Eel from 13 to 14 October, 2016, focussing on both scientific and management issues facing the species. A second meeting, looking into the possibility of a CMS instrument for the species is planned for early 2018.

MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING

Activity 3: Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for Marine Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa

Status of Implementation

52. The Secretariat is working with the UN Environment Abidjan Convention on an MOU to undertake some joint activities relating to turtles and other species in the region.

Challenges

- Lack of financial and staff resources to implement MOU activities within the Range States
- To identify partners that can assist in the coordination activities

³ Following the listing of Polar Bears and European Eels at Appendix II of the Convention opportunities have arisen to develop new activities.

- To identify international partners (e.g. NGOs, donor agencies) that can support the implementation of the MOU can through their activities and/or financially;

Next Steps

- Continue trying to identify relevant partners in the region to assist with coordination and implementation of activities as well as source of sustainable funding.

Activity 4: Memorandum of Understanding Concerning the Conservation of the Manatee and Small Cetaceans of Western Africa and Macaronesia (WAAM)

Status of Implementation

53. Due to lack of relevant partners in the region to assist with coordination and implementation of activities as well as sustainable financial resources, none of the activities foreseen in the POW could be undertaken. In light of this, the Secretariat manpower was directed towards other priorities,

Challenges

- Lack of financial and staff resources to implement MOU activities within the Range States
- To identify partners that can assist in the coordination activities
- To identify international partners (e.g. NGOs, donor agencies) that can support the implementation of the MOU through their activities and/or financially;

Next Steps

- Continue liaising with the Abidjan Convention, continue identifying relevant partners in the region to assist with coordination and implementation of activities. as well as sources of sustainable funding.

Activity 5: Memorandum of Understanding for the Conservation of Cetaceans and Their Habitats in the Pacific Islands Region (PIC)

Status of implementation

54. The CMS Secretariat (for PIC and Dugong MOUs) was represented at the Journées Bleues Regional Conference on Ecotourism in June 2015. Continuing liaison with SPREP on the Pacific Year of the Whale, 2016-17, and input into events which took place at the World Conservation Congress in September 2016, showcasing the value of cetacean ecotourism in the Pacific Islands Region. Funding has been secured for the organization of the 4th Meeting of the Signatories to the PIC MOU in 2018 back-to-back with the Annual SPREP Meeting of Officials.

Challenges

- The position of CMS Officer at SPREP ended in December 2014, when funding ran out. It has not been possible to secure additional funds, nor find another arrangement for technical coordination of the MOU.

Next Steps

- Organize the Meeting of the Signatories in 2018; continue to liaise with the SPREP species team and continue fundraising to enable technical coordination.

Activity 6: Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Eastern Atlantic Population of the Mediterranean Monk Seal (Monachus monachus)

Status of implementation

55. A Meeting to review the Action plan is foreseen for 2018.

Activity 7: Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks⁴

Status of Implementation

56. The 1st Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC1) was held from 12 to 13 February 2016 in San José, Costa Rica back to back with a meeting of the Intersessional Working Group on 14 February 2016 and the 2nd Meeting of the Signatories (MOS2), which took place on 15-19 February 2016. The meetings were kindly hosted by the Government of Costa Rica. Significant additional funding to support the organization and travel of delegates was received from the European Union and Germany. AC1, which was attended by members from five regions and leading experts in Shark Conservation and Management, provided scientific advice to MOS2, in particular on species proposed for inclusion in Annex 1 of the MOU and priorities for conservation activities.
57. The Committee agreed to establish a Conservation Working Group under the guidance of the Advisory Committee (AC) to serve and assist the AC and complement areas where expertise within the AC is needed. Terms of Reference for it were agreed by MOS2 (CMS/Sharks/Outcome 2.8).
58. MOS2 was attended by 130 participants of 30 Signatories and Range States as well as international governmental and non-governmental organizations, including UN Environment, UNDP, CITES, FAO and IUCN. Due to the significance of topics on the agenda for national and international fisheries management and conservation the meeting created high level attention, resulting in high level attendance from the President of Costa Rica and the Ministers for Fisheries and Environment also triggering high media interest.
59. The meeting made a number of important decisions, including the inclusion of 22 additional species in Annex 1, identification of activities of highest priority within the Conservation Plan and the adoption of a Programme of Work for the triennium. No final decision could be reached on the Rules of Procedure.
60. Furthermore, six additional non-governmental organizations committed themselves to support the implementation of the MOU and the Conservation plan with their signature of the MOU as Cooperating Partners.
61. A summary of the outcome of the meeting can be obtained at: [Decisions of the Meeting](#)
62. Through active outreach activities to non-Signatory Range States to become Signatories to the Memorandum, its membership is constantly increasing, with the overall number of Signatories to 41 by the time this document was finalized. Further outreach activities are planned in cooperation with NGO partners this year in regions that are not well covered yet, such as the Caribbean, the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia.
63. The Secretariat continues to establish working relationships with NGOs and other relevant bodies and entities.
64. In cooperation with partner organizations and other agreements of the CMS Family the Secretariat undertakes activities to improve the capacity of countries and regions to implement the objectives of the MOU and to facilitate and promote implementation of co-operative activities by the Signatory States. With financial support from the German Government, an Identification Guide for “Sharks of the Arabian Seas” was developed, which inter alia served as training tool in the planned capacity-building workshop on “By-catch in gillnet fisheries” jointly organized by IOTC, IOSEA and the Sharks MOU, in October 2015.
65. Finally, the Secretariat supports organizations and Signatories in search of financial resources to implement the objectives of the Sharks MOU. A research project on sharks, including the

⁴ It should be noted that only a small part of the activities mentioned-above related to organizing the next Meeting of Signatory was part of the POW and that the rest is covered by resources provided by the Signatories of the Sharks MOU.

great white shark in Tunisia was selected for funding through the CMS Small Grants Fund and discussions with donor countries on the financing of a monitoring project on the distribution and migration behaviour of Reef Manta Rays in the Galapagos.

66. The Secretariat, which serves as Secretariat to the CMS Sharks MOU, continues to provide management and in-kind support in terms of staff time of the administrative unit.

Challenges

- The success of the MOU will be determined by its ability to find its niche within the network of regulations and initiatives, that are of relevance for the conservation of sharks and rays; this requires building a bridge between science, conservation and fisheries management. To this end, functional working relationships with relevant entities must be developed, and visibility and credibility amongst the various stakeholders must be built up.
- Many of the MOU Range States are developing or least developed countries with limited capacity to implement the MOU. Thus, mobilizing resources for technical support and capacity-building to implement conservation actions remains a challenge and a major priority for the Secretariat.
- In light of the voluntary nature of Signatories' contributions to the Trust Fund, the Secretariat has had to adopt a conservative approach vis-à-vis expenditure of Trust Fund resources. The global nature of the MOU requires comprehensive outreach activities in order to bring the membership to a higher level. At the moment, the Secretariat relies on support from Cooperating Partners, in particular in regions with weak coverage of CMS Parties, such as Asia.

Next Steps

- Prepare the first meeting of the Conservation Working Group in 2016.
- Assist the Intersessional Working Group of Signatories with developing a communication and awareness-raising Strategy.
- Reach out to non-Signatory Range States. Continue fundraising efforts for both secretariat functions, and for implementation of activities.

Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Dugongs (Dugong dugon) and their Habitats throughout their Range (Dugong MOU)⁵

Status of Implementation

67. The Secretariat of the Dugong MOU forms part of CMS Office – Abu Dhabi, which is funded through the generosity of Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD), on behalf of the Government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Core funding arrangements for the Office have been extended until the end of 2019. Major initiatives and achievements since CMS COP11 are outlined below.
68. The Dugong MOU Secretariat has focused on providing support to projects, capacity-building and technical workshops as well as resource mobilization for regional and national activities. Implementation of the Dugong MOU Conservation and Management Plan (CMP) is facilitated through the Dugong Seagrass and Coastal Communities Initiative (DSCC Initiative) which aims to improve community-based stewardship, trial alternative livelihoods solutions, address fisheries impacts on dugongs and other migratory marine species, increase education and awareness, fill knowledge gaps, incorporate Dugong and seagrass conservation in policy, planning and regulatory frameworks and increase conservation capacity. Major projects contributing to the DSCC Initiative that are underway or planned include:
 - **GEF-5 Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project (GEF Project):** The core funding provided by EAD enabled the Dugong Secretariat to dedicate significant staff time between 2010 and 2014 to develop the GEF Project which was approved in 2014. In 2015 the Dugong Secretariat coordinated the successful handover and initiation of the GEF Project including the recruitment of the Project Coordinator, as well as coordination and facilitation of expert-level technical support to the Project Coordination Team and national project partners. The project is being executed by the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund (MBZSC Fund). Of the eight countries participating in the project Indonesia, Malaysia and Timor-Leste are not yet Signatories to the Dugong MOU but all have indicated their interest in signing during the implementation period of the GEF Project. The Secretariat continues to support the GEF Project, providing technical advice, including through the MOU's Dugong Technical Group, and by participating in key meetings. The Project website was officially launched in May 2016 and showcases global conservation efforts for dugong and seagrass ecosystems, particularly the GEF Project, and includes content developed by the Dugong MOU Secretariat: www.dugongconservation.org.
 - **Other projects:** The Dugong MOU Secretariat provided a small amount of seed funding towards creating a Trang Conservation Action Plan for Dugong and Seagrass and to scope the development of the Trang Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Incentives Project in Thailand. As described further below, funding is being sought through the German Government's International Climate Initiative for a Seagrass Ecosystem Services Project in Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Timor-Leste. All of these projects will complement the GEF Project. Official comments and support will be sought from the Gulf Range States for an Arabian Gulf Collaboration Project for one of the world's largest populations of Dugongs shared by Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE.
 - In addition, the Dugong MOU Secretariat, in collaboration with EAD, Total and Total Abu Al Bukhoosh, developed the Dugong and Seagrass Research Toolkit, a decision-support tool for research and conservation of Dugongs, seagrasses and impacts from human communities. the Toolkit was launched on 13 March 2017 and is available online at www.conservation.tools. It is an electronic tool that will guide users to select the most appropriate methodologies for research given a specific set of circumstances. Promoting standardized data collection that is appropriate to the individual needs of each country will help inform the management and conservation of dugongs and seagrasses. Data collected

⁵ This is an overview of the activities carried out by CMS Office - Abu Dhabi with respect to the Dugong MOU, which were not part of the original POW.

will feed into the work of the Dugong MOU and to relevant international processes such as updating the IUCN Red List data.

- **Resource mobilization:** During this triennium, the Dugong MOU Secretariat submitted (or played a significant role in developing) 12 project proposals and grant applications to complement the core funding. A proposal entitled 'Improving Standardization of and Access to Seagrass Biodiversity Data for Decision Making and Conservation (US\$985,000) developed by the Dugong MOU Secretariat, in partnership with the Marine Research Foundation, was selected as a priority project by the Eye on Earth Special Alliance and was showcased at the Eye on Earth Summit in October 2015. However, in 2016 the Dugong MOU Secretariat was advised that the Alliance was not in a position to pursue funding for this project as originally intended. The Dugong MOU Secretariat also submitted a €4.8 million proposal to the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) entitled 'Conservation of biodiversity, seagrass ecosystems and their services – safeguarding food security and resilience in vulnerable coastal communities in a changing climate' and was recently invited to submit a Stage 2 Proposal for the project. The Dugong MOU Secretariat expects that BMUB/IKI will advise the outcomes of the full proposal in the last quarter of 2017.
- **Technical Workshops:** Two technical workshops were held in September and October 2015 in Abu Dhabi, UAE and Colombo, Sri Lanka respectively. The aim of the first was to undertake initial scoping of the possible development of the Dugong and Seagrass Research Toolkit (formerly known as the E-Resource Kit) in collaboration with EAD. The second capitalized on the presence of some of the members of the Dugong MOU Technical Group participating in the GEF Project Inception Meeting. It was organized in part with the financial and in-kind support of the GEF Project Coordination Team of MBZSC Fund. The Dugong Technical Group members attending had particular expertise in seagrass, incentives and conservation finance, as well as community based conservation. The Dugong MOU Secretariat also partnered with EAD, Total and Total Abu Al Bukhoosh to hold a workshop in February 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand with members of the Dugong MOU Technical Group to commence work on the Dugong and Seagrass Research Toolkit. A second workshop was held in January 2017 in Bangkok to finalize the content of the Toolkit. The Dugong and Seagrass Research Toolkit was launched in conjunction with the Third Meeting of Signatories (MOS3) of the Dugong MOU on 13 March 2017.
- **Third Meeting of Signatories:** MOS3 took place on 13-14 March 2017 in Abu Dhabi, UAE. The meeting was attended by delegates from 23 countries and opened by His Excellency Dr Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, UAE Minister of Climate Change and Environment. Major outcomes included the reappointment of the Dugong Technical Group until the Fourth Meeting of Signatories, the endorsement of the Dugong and Seagrass Research Toolkit and agreement that a review of the CMP be undertaken. Though an indicative voluntary scale of assessment was not agreed, a key outcome of MOS3 was agreement by the Signatories to establish an annual target for voluntary contributions of US\$120,000 to help finance programme activities and complement EAD's core financial support.
- **Public event 'Global dugong and seagrass conservation efforts: from grassroots to governments':** On 14 March 2017, the Dugong MOU Secretariat co-hosted a public event entitled 'Global dugong and seagrass conservation efforts: from grassroots to governments' with the Emirates Natural History Group as part of the week-long series of Dugong events. The event, attended by nearly 100 people, provided an overview of the conservation and cultural importance of Dugongs and their seagrass habitats on global, regional and local scales. All in all the week-long series of dugong events attracted wide media attention with over 30 recorded articles in local and regional media, television coverage, and exposure on the UN Environment webpage.
- **Seagrass and Dugong Technical Workshop:** The Technical Workshop was co-hosted with EAD on 15-16 March 2017 in the UAE. It was attended by over 100 participants from

25 countries, including a large representation from the GEF Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project. The Technical Workshop was facilitated by members of the Dugong Technical Group and offered guidance in fund-raising and communication techniques to help organizations to secure funding for their Dugong and seagrass projects, and to promote and showcase the work they are already doing. It also provided an introduction to the Dugong and Seagrass Research Toolkit.

Challenges

- Over 90 per cent of the Dugong MOU Range States are developing or least developed countries with limited capacity to implement the MOU. Thus, mobilizing resources for technical support and capacity-building to implement conservation actions remains a challenge and a major priority for the Dugong MOU Secretariat.
- The yearly amounts received in core funding will be confirmed with EAD annually.
- To Signatories to achieve their annual funding target of US\$120,000 for voluntary contributions agreed at MOS3 in order to complement EAD's core financial support and ensure delivery of the MOU's Programme of Work.

Next Steps

- The Dugong MOU Secretariat will continue to provide technical advice to support implementation of the GEF Project, including coordinating inputs from the MOU's Dugong Technical Group where required.
- The Secretariat will continue to seek additional resources for projects to implement the DSCC Initiative. Funds secured will be used to leverage additional money to implement further activities under the DSCC Initiative.
- The Secretariat will continue to work with its partners to fully develop the project proposal so the IKI regarding seagrass ecosystem services. The Secretariat will continue to ensure that the GEF Project, as well as other projects and workshops under the DSCC Initiative, are a success and will help build a strong case for non-signatory Range States to join the Dugong MOU.
- The Secretariat will work closely with the MOU Signatories to reach the annual voluntary contribution target of US\$120,000 to help finance programme activities and complement EAD's core financial support.

Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia (IOSEA Marine Turtles MOU)⁶

Status of implementation

69. The Seventh Meeting of Signatories (MOS7) was held in September 2014 in Bonn, Germany. Apart from conducting its regular implementation review and the consultations on action priorities among sub-regional groups, the Meeting discussed a few major issues: fisheries-turtle interactions based on an analysis of States' National Reports to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), illegal take and trade in marine turtles, socio-economic issues related to marine turtle conservation, light pollution and some preliminary findings on the impacts of climate change on marine turtles. The Meeting also accepted ten site proposals for the IOSEA Marine Turtle Site Network.
70. In line with its Conservation and Management Plan as well as the agreed actions arising from MOS7, priority activities include:
 - ***IOSEA Marine Turtle Site Network:*** In light of the lessons learned from the first nomination cycle, the application documents, including evaluation and scoring criteria, are currently being reviewed. A Steering Committee is to be established to brainstorm long-

⁶ This is an overview of the activities carried out by the Coordinator of the IOSEA MOU, which was not a part of the original POW.

term funding and monitoring options for sites of the Network. A Discussion Group was formed in December 2015 for the purpose of exchanging ideas on operationalizing the IOSEA Marine Turtle Site Network.

- **Bycatch and cooperation with Regional Fisheries Management Organizations:** The IOSEA Secretariat assists with updating the annual IOTC marine turtle summary and the IOTC revision of the Resolution 12/04 on bycatch in marine turtles currently in force. A joint capacity-building workshop was carried out for scientists involved and managers of the IOTC Regional Observer Scheme from Iran, Oman and Pakistan in October 2015. A priority is also providing advice on data collection requirements.
- **Illegal Take and Trade:** Based on a synthesis report prepared by the Secretariat for MOS7, the seriousness of illegal trade in marine turtles was recognized. With the help of a Working Group, the issue was brought to the attention of CITES, which decided to undertake a study on the legal and illegal international trade in marine turtles (CITES COP Dec.17.222) in collaboration with CMS and IOSEA.

71. Given the vast and diverse region covered by the MOU, sub-regional approaches have been adopted:

- In 2006, the Western Indian Ocean Marine Turtle Task Force (WIO-MTTF) was established and has since met six times. A seventh meeting is planned to take place later this year.
- In October 2015, a workshop was held in the Maldives to establish a Northern Indian Ocean Marine Turtle Taskforce (NIO-MTTF). The next meeting is planned to take place early in 2018.
- MOS7 agreed that sub-regional meetings should also be held in the Northwestern Indian Ocean (NWIO) and South-East Asia (SEA+). Both are planned to be held in the first half of 2018.

72. The 8th Meeting of the Signatories (MOS8) is planned for the second half of 2018. Expressions of interest to host are being sought.

Challenges

- Since the MOU is dependent on voluntary contributions from Signatories to cover its operational costs, the support of Signatories in implementing the MOU through the Secretariat has always been very insecure. Despite the introduction of a scale of assessed contributions, which are payable voluntarily, the insecurity remained.
- The long-time Coordinator for the MOU, based in Bangkok, went on a sabbatical for one year in late 2014. During his absence, the Secretariat functions were temporarily moved to the CMS Office in Bonn. Within a year of returning to the office, the Coordinator went on early retirement and the Bangkok office was dissolved. After a gap of about three months, a temporary coordinator was appointed and set up the office in Bonn in January 2017. IOSEA Signatories are yet to confirm the level at which recruitment of a permanent Coordinator is to take place. The lack of continuity in the last years has temporarily reduced momentum.
- Both the website and the Online Reporting Facility used for the MOU rely on outdated technology and can no longer be maintained. Both are therefore currently being transferred to the platforms used by the CMS Family in Bonn.

Next Steps

- Securing the MOU financially remains a priority. Invoices for the 2017 contributions were sent to all Signatories, and contributions are strongly encouraged.
- Five meetings are planned for 2017 and 2018: WIO-MTTF, NIO-MTTF, NWIO sub-regional meeting, SEA+ sub-regional meeting, and 8th Meeting of the Signatories.
- Implementation of the priority actions for the Secretariat identified by MOS7, in consultation and collaboration with the Advisory Committee and Signatories.

ACTION PLANS

Activity 8: The Pacific Loggerhead Turtle Action Plan

73. Following the adoption of the Action Plan at COP11, a workshop was convened by the CMS Appointed Councillor for Marine Turtles with the support of the Secretariat, in the margins of the 36th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, 29 February 2016, Lima, Peru. The Steering Committee is in the process of identifying initial projects to be implemented with funding from the Australian Government. The Secretariat is liaising with the Inter-American Turtle Convention Secretariat and SPREP.

III.2 AVIAN SPECIES

Activity 11: Implementation of Resolutions

Activity 11.1: Resolution 11.14 on a Programme of Work on Migratory Birds and Flyways⁷

Status of implementation

74. Resolution 11.14 adopted a global programme of work on migratory birds and flyways with the overall purpose of identifying and promoting implementation of activities at the international and national levels that will effectively contribute to an improvement in the status of migratory birds and their habitats worldwide. The Resolution also adopted an America's Flyways Framework to assist governments, NGOs, research institutions, corporations and citizens in the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats in the Western Hemisphere.
75. During the reference period, an Action Plan for the America's Flyways was developed under the leadership of the Scientific Councillor for Ecuador, Ana Agreda. The document was officially submitted by Ecuador to the first meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council, which took place in Bonn in April 2016. The document was endorsed by the Sessional Committee. Thereafter it was circulated to the Flyways Working Group for comments. The document is currently being updated and when a new version is available it will be circulated to flyway organizations in the Americas.
76. Resolution 11.14 also established a mandate to develop a Multi-species Action Plan to Conserve African-Eurasian Vultures (Vulture MsAP), under the auspices of the CMS Raptors MOU, to promote concerted and collaborative international conservation actions. During the reference period, the Raptors MOU brought together representatives of Range States, partners and interested parties to contribute to a comprehensive Action Plan covering the geographic ranges (127 countries) of 15 species of Old World Vultures. First Draft Vulture MsAP was circulated 1 February 2017 and the Second Draft on 16 March 2017^[1]. The Third and Final Draft was submitted to the CMS Secretariat on 24 May 2017, to be considered by the second meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council (July 2017) and then by COP12 (October 2017).

Challenges

- The main challenge for this Resolution is the lack of specific funds allocated for its implementation, including organizing a meeting of the Flyways Working Group and the implementation of the Vulture MsAP⁸ (subject to being adopted at COP12). A Task Force on America's Flyways has been established and Terms of Reference have been developed. A meeting of the Task Force is postponed to 2018, resources permitting. Brazil has offered to host this meeting. During the Ramsar COP in Uruguay in June 2015, a flyways side event was organized by WHMSI with the participation of Rob Clay, COP-appointed Scientific Councillor for birds, representing CMS.

⁷ In the original POW it was listed as activity 19 'The Programme of Work for Migratory Bird and Flyways incl. organizing meeting of the Working Group'

⁸ Details of the process are described in this document under heading 'Raptors MOU'

- In February 2015, a Notification was issued in coordination with CBD in support of the Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative (AMBI) of the Arctic Council's Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna Working Group (CAFF), with the objective of improving the conservation status throughout their life cycle of migratory birds that breed in the Arctic.

Next steps

- The Secretariat will continue to liaise with Brazil for the organization of the meeting of the Americas Task Force. Coordination between the Secretariat, the two COP-appointed Scientific Councillors for birds, Rob Clay and Stephen Garnett, and the Chair of the Flyways Working Group, Taej Mundkur, will continue as usual and Skype conferences will be held regularly.

Activity 11.2: Resolution 11.15 on Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds

77. The Resolution adopted comprehensive guidelines to prevent poisoning of migratory birds, covering pesticides, rodenticides, poison baits, veterinary drugs and lead. A joint CMS, AEWA and Raptors MOU workshop on bird poisoning in the Southern African region took place on 24 August 2015 in South Africa, back to back with the AEWA pre-MOP6 meeting. This workshop was made possible thanks to the financial contribution of the European Union through the ENRTP Strategic Cooperation Agreement with UN Environment under the project "*Effective Implementation of CMS, AEWA and other CMS Family instruments across various regions and languages through capacity-building*". The output of the meeting was published as the Sub-regional Implementation Plan to Prevent Poisoning of Migratory Birds in Southern African countries 2017-2020.
78. The Secretariat has participated in the elaboration of an Action Plan to prevent risks from use of poison baits in the EU, which has been developed by the European Network against Environmental Crime (ENEC). The purpose of this Action Plan is to set guidelines on behalf of the ENEC for the adoption of measures to eradicate the use of poison baits in the countryside. These recommendations contribute to implementing the CMS Guidelines on bird poisoning, including recommendations at EU level to ensure a consistent and effective deterrent to poison bait use in the EU.
79. From 19 to 21 February 2017, a meeting of the Preventing Poisoning Working Group (PPWG) took place back to back with the Overarching Workshop to develop a Multi-species Action Plan to Conserve African-Eurasian Vultures (Vulture MsAP) in Toledo, Spain, supported by the Regional Government of Castilla-La Mancha and the Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MOU, and organized by SEO/BirdLife Spain and the Secretariat. At this meeting, the PPWG assessed that the overall progress of national implementation of the Guidelines to Prevent the Risk of Poisoning to Migratory Birds (*UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.1.2/Annex 2*) had been insufficient since COP11 and proposed timelines had not been met. In order to promote the implementation of Resolution 11.15 and the Guidelines more effectively, the PPWG agreed on a Programme of Work (POW) and the establishment of a Task Force on lead as a thematic sub-group focusing on poisoning from lead ammunition, fishing weights and other sources of lead, and developed its Terms of Reference. It also made suggestions for amendments to Resolution 11.15.

Challenges

- The main challenge of this Resolution is the lack of financial resources to hire a Coordinator, to organize regional workshops to implement the actions identified in the POW of the PPWG, and to organize an inter-sessional meeting of the working group itself.

Next steps

- In the absence of funding for a Coordinator, SEO/BirdLife Spain agreed to coordinate the PPWG on an interim basis until COP12. However, as at the beginning of the triennium 2017-2020, resources for a Coordinator of the PPWG need to be identified in order to facilitate the implementation of the POW of the PPWG.

Activity 11.3: Resolution 11.16 on the Prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds

Status of implementation

80. The Resolution recognizes illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds as a global problem, but focusses on the Mediterranean as a region where these activities are especially acute and need a proactive approach. To this end, the Resolution foresees the establishment of an Intergovernmental Task Force to address illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT), including government representatives of all CMS Parties in the region and stakeholders such as BirdLife International, IUCN and the Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the EU (FACE).
81. A concept note has been developed by the Secretariat and a consultative group has been established to guide the work of the Task Force. Letters have been sent to Mediterranean Parties and stakeholders requesting the nomination of focal points for the Task Force. Thanks to the support pledged by the European Union, it has been possible to appoint a Coordinator and organize the first meeting of members. The Coordinator, Carmen Naves Muñoz, entered on duty in January 2016 and is based at the CMS Secretariat in Bonn. The first meeting of the Task Force took place in Cairo 12-15 July 2016, at the kind invitation of the Government of Egypt. The main outcome of the Cairo meeting was a [Programme of Work](#) (POW) for the Task Force during the period 2016-2020.
82. A second meeting has also been arranged and it is scheduled to be held on 22-23 June in Sliema (Malta), at the kind invitation of the Government of Malta. This is a joint meeting of MIKT and the Bern Convention Special Focal Points Network on Eradication of Illegal Killing, Trapping and Trade of Wild Birds. The main outcome of the Sliema meeting is expected to be a Scoreboard to assess the national progress in combating illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds.
83. A new Task Force on illegal hunting of birds in Asia is proposed to be established based on the MIKT model for the Mediterranean. This new Task Force will complement efforts already started by the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership to mitigate the illegal hunting of waterbirds along the flyway.

Challenges

- The main challenge of this project is to engage the governments of the Mediterranean countries in the work of the Task Force, and to reverse the very strong tradition of bird trapping in some Mediterranean countries. Funding from the EU is secure until 2018, thereafter additional funds will be necessary for the second phase of this project.

Next steps

- The work of the Mediterranean Task Force will serve as a pilot case on how to tackle the problem of illegal killing of birds. In the future, similar task forces could be established in other problem areas, e.g. Asia, the Middle East or the Caribbean region.

Activity 11.4: Resolution 11.17 on the Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region

Status of implementation

84. A teleconference of the Action Plan's Steering Group was organized on 12 June 2015 to provide advice on future steps with regard to this Resolution. Thanks to the funds pledged by Switzerland, it was possible to organize a meeting of the Landbirds Working Group in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, on 25-27 November 2015. The meeting benefitted from the logistical support provided by the UN Environment Sub-Regional Office for West Africa based in Abidjan. The main outcome was the preparation of a Programme of Work for the period 2016-2020. From 24 to 26 November 2016 a workshop on "Sustainable Land Use in West Africa: National

and International Policy Responses that Deliver for Migratory Birds and People” took place in Abuja, generously hosted by the Federal Ministry of Environment of Nigeria and made possible through financial support granted by the Government of Switzerland. The workshop adopted the Abuja Declaration on Sustainable Land Use for People and Biodiversity in West Africa, which identifies the key drivers of land use change, the key harmful land use changes, and examples of good sustainable management practices and approaches. The issues discussed are central to the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Aichi Targets under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the CMS Strategic Plan.

Next steps

- A new Resolution on African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds will be submitted to COP 12 including the recommendations of the West Africa land use workshop.
- Related to the implementation of this Resolution, the Secretariat and the Landbirds Working Group will support the project “AfriBiRds - African Biosphere Reserves as pilot sites for monitoring and conservation of migratory birds”, implemented by BirdLife International African Office, in collaboration with NABU, the BirdLife partner in Germany, and supported by the German Government under oversight of the Federal Ministry of Environment (BMUB) and the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN). This project, taking place from December 2016 through August 2019, will design and implement a pilot scheme to monitor bird populations by assessing existing monitoring schemes and activities in UNESCO Biosphere Reserves in Africa.

MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING

Activity 12: Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Aquatic Warbler

Status of Implementation

85. From 20 to 21 May 2015, the Third Meeting of Signatories (MOS) to the Aquatic Warbler MOU took place in the Nemunas Delta Regional Park at the kind invitation of the Government of Lithuania. Eight signatories were present at the meeting together with NGOs and experts. The meeting was co-organized by the CMS Secretariat and the Lithuanian organization, the Baltic Environmental Forum under the framework of the EU LIFE+ project “Securing sustainable farming to ensure conservation of globally threatened bird species in agrarian landscapes”. The MOS took place back to back with the international seminar “Achievements, Success Stories and Lessons Learned of the Aquatic Warbler Conservation” (19-20 May 2015) that was the stock-taking and final meeting for this EU LIFE project. The MOS was entirely funded by the LIFE project and there was no cost to CMS.
86. A set of recommendations was agreed by the Signatories to be undertaken by 2020. These address the conservation of the core breeding population of Aquatic Warblers in eastern Poland, Belarus and Ukraine; the Pomeranian population of Aquatic Warbler between Germany and Poland; the role of France as a major stop-over area during migration; the need to do more research in the wintering areas and to work with the African Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan.
87. The next MOS is foreseen for 2020 or earlier. This will be a very important meeting because the Aquatic Warbler Action Plan will be revised in depth and a new version will be elaborated. The coordination mechanism with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) will be assessed. On the positive side, the advantage of the Aquatic Warbler MOU is that it has a very active and committed constituency which is always ready to help and keep the activities going. The Aquatic Warbler Conservation Team should be mentioned in particular as a group of experts that acts as a think tank providing very useful scientific advice and facilitating surveys, projects and research activities that are extremely important for the MOU. This Conservation Team is, de facto, the advisory body of the Aquatic Warbler MOU.

Challenges

- Sustainable funding for the coordination mechanism that is currently in place needs to be ensured. Under this arrangement, the RSPB provides coordination services to the MOU through OTOP, the BirdLife partner in Poland. This mechanism has been endorsed by the MOS and in 2015 a Small-Scale Funding Agreement (SSFA) was signed with the RSPB by which the CMS Secretariat provides US\$11,600 and the RSPB provides US\$18,000. The duration of this SSFA is of one year and expired in June 2016. The CMS core budget adopted at COP11 does not include any funds for MOU coordination.

Next steps

- To continue to try to raise funds for continuation of the coordination.

Activity 13: Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of the Middle-European population of Great Bustard

Status of Implementation

88. The fourth Meeting of Signatories is foreseen to take place in 2018 in the State of Brandenburg, Germany.
89. On the 8-10 March 2017, a scientific meeting took place in Illmitz, Austria organized under the auspices of an EU Life project. CMS was represented and first discussions on the organization of MOS4 were held.

Challenges

- Funding for MOS4 intended to be provided by the Government of Germany needs to be secured for the next legislative period in Germany.

Next steps

- The Secretariat will support the organization of MOS4, will liaise with the German Federal Ministry of Environment (BMUB) for funding possibilities and with Range States to become Signatories of the MOU.

Activity14: Memorandum of Understanding between the Argentine Republic and the Republic of Chile on the Conservation of the Ruddy-headed Goose.

Status of Implementation

90. Contacts are continuing with Argentina and Chile with a view to putting together a project proposal for research and conservation of Ruddy-headed Goose.

Activity 15: Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Slender-billed Curlew

Status of implementation

91. This species has not been observed in recent years and subsequently no activities have taken place under the framework of the MOU.

Activity 16: Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Siberian Crane

Status of implementation

92. In June 2015, the Secretariat participated in a workshop to develop a Conservation Strategy for the Eastern Flyway of the Siberian Crane between the Russian Federation and China. The

meeting took place in Liaoning Province in China and was sponsored by the International Crane Foundation (ICF) and the Disney Conservation Fund.

93. The proceedings of the 2015 benefit concert that took place in Bonn in celebration of World Migratory Bird Day were transferred to ICF to translate a booklet on Siberian Crane into several Central Asian languages. The total amount raised was €2,210.
94. The webpage sibeflyway.org which was maintained by the International Crane Foundation has now been integrated into the MOU space in the CMS web.

Challenges

- To ensure sustainable funding to support the existing coordination arrangement with the International Crane Foundation, which amounts to US\$10,000 yearly.

Next Steps

- To fundraise for the continuation of the coordination through ICF.

Activity 17: Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of High Andean Flamingos and their Habitats

Status of implementation

95. The First Meeting of Signatories of the Andean Flamingos MOU took place in the city of Cuzco (Peru) 26-28 April 2016. The main outcome of the meeting was the adoption of an Action Plan for the implementation of the MOU, and a coordination mechanism. The Grupo Conservación Flamencos Altoandinos signed the MOU as a coordinating partner. The meeting was very effectively hosted by the Servicio Forestal y de Fauna Silvestre of Peru (SERFOR) and generously funded by the EU through TAIEF (Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Facility).

Challenges

- The main challenge for this MOU is now to implement the Action Plan and find financial resources to carry out the coordinated surveys and other conservation measures.

Next Steps

- Peru will coordinate the MOU until 2018 and thereafter Bolivia will undertake this role until 2020.

Activity 18: Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Southern South American Migratory Grassland Birds and their Habitats

Status of implementation

96. The Secretariat has not been able to support any activities related to this MOU due to lack of capacity and financial resources.

Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors MOU)⁹

Status of Implementation

97. The Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MOU forms part of CMS Office – Abu Dhabi, which is funded through the generosity of Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi, on behalf of the Government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Core funding arrangements for the Office have been extended until 2019. Major initiatives and achievements since CMS COP11 include:

- **Second Meeting of Signatories (MOS2)** – The Government of Norway hosted MOS2 from 5-8 October 2015 at Trondheim, Norway. Germany and the Netherlands also provided very welcome additional financial sponsorship for several additional delegates to attend MOS2. A webpage was established in February 2015 and formal invitations were issued in June 2015 to all 52 Signatories and 3 Cooperating Partners, as well as to the 80 non-Signatory Range States to potentially attend as observers. Over 60 delegates from 23 Signatory States, five non-Signatory Range States and 11 stakeholder organizations participated in MOS2. Key activities included reviewing the species of African-Eurasian migratory birds of prey listed in Annex 1 of the Raptors MOU, including considering updates to taxonomy and nomenclature to keep pace with current understanding. Adopting comprehensive proposals put forward by the interim Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to the Raptors MOU, 18 new species were added based on emerging evidence of movement patterns consistent with the definition of 'migratory species' in the Raptors MOU; two species were also added and three removed following recent taxonomic changes. In addition, Signatories at MOS2 took note of the TAG proposals to amend Table 3 of the Action Plan (Provisional list of Important Bird Areas that are currently known to be important congregatory bird of prey sites in Africa and Eurasia) and further noted that the proposed amended list of sites could be used by Signatories to prepare national or regional strategies or equivalent documents. Signatories also took decisions relating to: the further review by TAG of the proposed amended list of internationally important sites for migratory birds of prey (Table 3 of Annex 3 of the Action Plan to the Raptors MOU); instructing the Coordinating Unit to circulate the revised proposed amended list of sites to Signatories for comment at least 150 days prior to MOS3 to allow adequate consultation and feedback in anticipation of their adoption; Range States included in the geographical range of the MOU (Annex 2); Rules of Procedure for MOSs; development of National/Regional Raptor Conservation Strategies; establishment of the TAG; endorsement of the CMS Strategic Plan for Migratory Species and resolving to take action to raise awareness and to promote its implementation; and, the acceptance and establishment of a scale of assessment for voluntary contributions from Signatories. Signatories also agreed that the Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MOU would facilitate and oversee the development of a Multi-species Action Plan to Conserve African-Eurasian Vultures (Vulture MsAP) – an initiative based on CMS Resolution 11.14 (Programme of Work on Migratory Birds and Flyways) to address rapid declines of this group of birds, often now referred to as the African Vulture Crisis.
- **Technical Advisory Group (TAG)** – The Second Meeting of TAG was held in March 2015 in Abu Dhabi. Good progress was made and a consultation paper was issued to Signatories in July 2015, outlining recommendations for changes to the species (Annex 1) and sites (Table 3) listed in the text of the MOU, for consideration at MOS2. Nominations were received from Signatories in April 2015 for the TAG that was then established at MOS2 to operate intersessionally thereafter. Since MOS2, international online teleconferences have been held with the TAG members, to review and refine the TAG Work Plan 2016-2018 endorsed by Signatories. The Coordinating Unit let a modest contract with BirdLife International to provide certain technical support to assist TAG in addressing a number of key tasks within the current TAG Work Plan. Comprehensive Proposals to list 11 species of migratory birds of prey (10

⁹ This is an overview of the activities carried out by CMS Office - Abu Dhabi with respect to the Raptors MOU, which were not part of the original POW.

Old World Vultures and the Steppe Eagle) on CMS Appendix I were developed by TAG and circulated to CMS Parties for consideration in May 2017.

- **Multi-species Action to Conserve African-Eurasian Vultures (Vulture MsAP)** – Following consultation with the IUCN SSC Vulture Specialist Group, BirdLife International (BLI) and other specialists, the Coordinating Unit drafted a Project Charter in February 2016 for the development of the Vulture MsAP. The overall aim is to develop a comprehensive strategic Action Plan covering the whole geographic ranges of 15 species of Old World vultures to promote concerted, collaborative and coordinated international conservation actions. An initial assessment suggested that over 120 Range States host populations of one or more of these vulture species and therefore should be included within the geographic coverage of the Vulture MsAP. The Project Charter was circulated (in English and French) to all the Range States, partners and interested parties, calling for nominations for a Vulture Working Group and for funding support. Nearly 60 nominations were received for the Vulture Working Group; and Switzerland generously stepped forward to offer funding support to complement core funding from the Coordinating Unit to develop the Vulture MsAP during 2016 and 2017. Small Scale Funding Agreements were signed with the Vulture Conservation Foundation and BLI to lead Regional and Overarching Coordination of the development of the Vulture MsAP. Four Regional Workshops (Africa, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East) were held in 2016-2017: in Senegal in October 2016 (co-organized by BLI); in Spain in October 2016 (co-organized by the Vulture Conservation Foundation); in India in November 2016 (co-organized by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds); and in the UAE in February 2017 (co-organized with the Environment and Protected Areas Authority of the Emirate of Sharjah) respectively. A first draft of the Vulture MsAP was published in mid-February 2017, in advance of the Overarching Workshop (co-organized by SEO/BirdLife Spain). Participants at this concluding Workshop reviewed the first consolidated draft of the Vulture MsAP, incorporating the four regional components; elaborated certain key strategic components of the MsAP which had not been collectively considered at the Regional Workshops; and successfully generated additional multi-lateral support. A month-long Public Consultation Exercise on the second draft of the Vulture MsAP was launched in mid-March 2017, with the aim of reaching out even further by inviting comments and improvements from anyone who recognizes the importance of vultures and the critical need to conserve them. Almost 60 responses were received raising over 250 issues for consideration. Each response was carefully reviewed and, where appropriate, integrated into a final version of the Vulture MsAP, submitted to the CMS Secretariat in May 2017, in time for tabling at the Sessional Committee meeting of CMS Scientific Council (July 2017) and CMS COP12. The total estimated cost of this process to develop the Vulture MsAP is €450,000 (see POW Table).
- **Saker Falcon Task Force – CMS Resolution 11.18** – The Saker Falcon (*Falco cherrug*) Global Action Plan (SakerGAP) was adopted at COP11. The first flagship implementation project taken forward was the creation and development of an online information portal to engage stakeholders within a Saker Falcon Network. This multilingual portal aims to build trust and raise awareness by linking falconers, trappers, falcon hospitals, conservationist and researchers within a network to exchange information that enables estimation of sustainable harvest levels for Saker Falcon populations, and also to encourage best practice. The portal will also facilitate a comprehensive data collection and management system to monitor trade in the Saker Falcon. The majority of the funding for the project was contributed by the International Association for Falconry and the Conservation of Birds of Prey (IAF), a Co-operating Partner to the Raptors MOU, supplemented by funds from the core budget of the Coordinating Unit. A project Steering Group meeting was hosted by the Coordinating Unit in Abu Dhabi in March 2015, back-to-back with the second meeting of the TAG, and the Saker Online Portal was launched on 20 April 2015. Recruitment of a consultant Coordinator to drive forward the implementation of the whole SakerGAP was launched in the first quarter of 2016. However, the process was delayed due to funding constraints but was restarted in May 2017. Despite this, implementation of the Flagship Projects outlined in the SakerGAP has proceeded.

- **Egyptian Vulture Flyway Action Plan (FAP) for the Balkans and Central Asia** – Jointly organized by the Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds (BirdLife Bulgaria) and the Coordinating Unit, an international Action Planning Workshop was held in Sofia, Bulgaria in July 2015. Over 70 participants from more than 30 countries attended and worked collaboratively to develop and refine a draft FAP. In advance of the meeting, the Coordinating Unit commissioned a study carried out by the Vulture Conservation Foundation to evaluate the implementation of the existing EU Action Plan for the species, which was published in 2008. The results were presented at the Workshop to ensure that knowledge, experience and lessons learned were incorporated into the forthcoming FAP. The Coordinating Unit has actively contributed to the draft FAP and a six-week Public Consultation Exercise took place in February 2017 in advance of developing the final version, published in May 2017. The Egyptian Vulture FAP is to be incorporated as a key component of the Vulture MsAP.
- **Cinereous Vulture Flyway Action Plan** – The Vulture Conservation Foundation (VCF) secured EU Life+ funding to review the existing EU Species Action Plan for the Cinereous Vulture (*Aegypius monachus*). The Coordinating Unit signed a Small-Scale Funding Agreement with VCF to exploit potential synergies by expanding this review into the development of a Flyway Action Plan for the species. The Cinereous Vulture Flyway Action Plan is to be incorporated as a key component of the Vulture MsAP.
- **International Single Species Action Plan (ISSAP) for the Sooty Falcon** – There is a pressing need to gather more accurate and comprehensive information on the Sooty Falcon (*Falco concolor*), particularly concerning its global population status and the main threats causing its decline. In April 2015, a first draft of a Sooty Falcon ISSAP was circulated to members of the Sooty Falcon Working Group, previously established by the Coordinating Unit. Plans for an Action Planning Workshop to develop and finalize the ISSAP are currently stalled subject to receipt of additional resources.
- **World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD)** – The Coordinating Unit actively supported two one-day seminars in the UAE hosted by Dubai Municipality on 11 May 2016 and 10 May 2017, respectively, to celebrate WMBD.
- **African Raptor DataBank (ARDB)** – This ambitious, citizen-science non-profit project already holds more than 120,000 records of birds of prey seen in Africa. It aims to inspire birdwatchers, researchers and members of the public to submit observations and information that will reveal the conservation status of raptors and their habitats throughout Africa. Much of the continent is not yet served by reliable internet or cellphone connections so there is a need for mobile devices such as smartphones and tablets to capture data offline. A previous project sponsored by the Coordinating Unit developed a state-of-the-art offline Android App for the ARDB. Collaboration between Habitat INFO, The Peregrine Fund and the Coordinating Unit saw a similar offline App launched for Apple iOS devices in August 2016.
- **New Signatories** – Eleven countries and one new Co-operating Partner have signed the Raptors MOU since November 2014: the Czech Republic and Switzerland (5 November 2014), the Syrian Arab Republic (22 December 2014), Lebanon (28 December 2014), the Islamic Republic of Iran (10 March 2015) Spain (4 May 2015) Comoros (6 October 2015), Croatia (11 November 2015), Israel (11 November 2015), India (7 March 2016), and Saudi Arabia (13 March 2017); and the IUCN Species Survival Commission Vulture Specialist Group (29 November 2016).

Challenges

- Core funding arrangements for CMS Office – Abu Dhabi (which includes the Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MOU and the Dugong MOU Secretariat) have been extended until 2019 with the yearly amounts received being confirmed annually.
- The Saker Falcon Task Force identified the need for a Coordinator to be selected and commissioned to oversee the implementation of the SakerGAP. The Coordinating Unit has

so far been unable to attract a specific donor to fund the position, which is viewed as critical to ensuring the successful implementation of the SakerGAP.

- Mobilizing resources to organize the proposed Action Planning Workshop for the Sooty Falcon also remains a challenge.

Next Steps

- Fundraising efforts will continue with the aim of securing the additional funds needed to implement the Vulture MsAP (subject to adoption at CMS COP12), to recruit a Coordinator to oversee implementation of the SakerGAP, and to enable the hosting of an Action Planning Workshop to develop the ISSAP for the Sooty Falcon.
- The Coordinating Unit will continue to actively engage with wider CMS-led initiatives such as: Preventing Poisoning Working Group; Combatting illegal killing, taking and trade in migratory birds (IKB), including via the Task Force for the Mediterranean region; the Energy Task Force, and World Migratory Bird Day.

ACTION PLANS

New activity¹⁰: Baer's Pochard Action Plan

98. An International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of Baer's Pochard has been prepared by the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust. The Action Plan was subsequently adopted by the East Asian Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) in January 2015. The document was discussed at the meeting of the Scientific Council's Sessional Committee in April 2016, and will be submitted to COP 12 for adoption. Resolution 11.14 on a Programme of Work on Migratory Birds and Flyways recommends the elaboration of an Action Plan for this species, which lives only in Asia and is considered Critically Endangered by IUCN.

New activity: Far-Eastern Curlew Action Plan

99. An Action Plan for this species was recommended by Resolution 11.14 on a Programme of Work on Migratory Birds and Flyways. A Task Force has been established under the East Asian Australasian Flyway Partnership with the aim of developing an Action Plan under EAAFP. The Action Plan has been prepared by Australia and was adopted at the 9th Meeting of Partners of the EAAFP in Singapore in January 2017. It will be submitted to COP12 in October 2017 in the Philippines for adoption by CMS. In May 2015 Australia published conservation advice and included this species in the Critically Endangered category at national level. The species is considered as Vulnerable by IUCN. The Government of Australia has pledged a voluntary contribution to the CMS Secretariat for the implementation of the Action Plan.

New Activity: Yellow-breasted Bunting Action Plan

100. Following the catastrophic decline of this species' population, an international Action Plan is under development, and is intended to be submitted to COP12. An action planning workshop took place from 2 to 4 November 2016 in the city of Guangzhou, in the province of Guangdong, China. The meeting was organized by the Sun Yat-sen University and BirdLife International, with support from the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society and the Guangdong Institute of Applied Biological Sciences. Addressing the problem of illegal hunting was the main topic discussed and the meeting agreed on priority measures which will be included in the Action Plan. It is expected that the species will soon be granted a higher level of protection in China.

¹⁰ The development of the Baer's Pochard, the Far-Eastern Curlew and the Yellow-breasted Bunting Action Plans and organization of a Scientific Symposium on Asian Bustard were not foreseen in the POW.

New Activity: European Turtle Dove Action Plan

101. An Action Plan on the European Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia turtur*) was requested by Resolution 11.17. on the Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region (AEMLAP), in line with CMS priorities for Concerted and Cooperative Action. The species is considered Vulnerable by IUCN. CMS was represented at two international workshops, one for the western flyway in Valsain, Spain, on 19 to 21 December 2016, and one for the central and eastern flyway in Kecskemét, Hungary, on 16 to 18 January 2017, organized by BirdLife International in the frame of the Project LIFE EuroSAP (LIFE14 PRE UK 002). Based on the outcomes of these meetings, the Draft Action Plan was developed in cooperation with the RSPB and BirdLife International and will be submitted to COP12. The Action Plan is subject to an ongoing consultation process directed to all EU member states conducted by the European Commission.

New Activity: European Roller Action Plan

102. An Action Plan on the European Roller (*Coracias garrulus*) was requested by Resolution 11.17 the Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region (AEMLAP), in line with CMS priorities for Concerted and Cooperative Action. The species shows a decreasing global population trend. It is considered Least Concern by IUCN. CMS was represented at an international workshop in Kecskemét, Hungary, on 19 to 20 January 2017, organized by BirdLife International in the frame of the Project EU LIFE13/NAT/HU/000081. Based on the outcomes of this meeting, the Action Plan was developed in cooperation with BirdLife International and will be submitted to COP12.

New Activity: Asian Great Bustard

Status of implementation

103. Following the inclusion of this subspecies of the Great Bustard in Appendix I at COP11, a scientific symposium took place in Mongolia from 25 to 29 May 2017 to update the species' conservation status in its Asian range. During this meeting, the existing Action Plan for the Asian populations was also updated and a proposal for Concerted Action under CMS discussed and submitted to the Secretariat. The meeting was hosted by the Ministry of Environment of Mongolia.

III.3 TERRESTRIAL SPECIES

Activity 20: Implementation of Resolutions

Activity 20.1: Resolution 11.13 on Concerted and Cooperative Actions

104. This Resolution calls for action on the following terrestrial species, which are not covered by other instruments (see below): African Forest and Savannah Elephants, African Wild Dog, Cheetah, White-eared Kob and four species of African bats.
105. Across the ecological corridor between Ethiopia, South Sudan and linked to Kenya and Uganda it has been possible to map the movements of satellite-collared White-eared Kobs, elephants and Nile lechwe in collaboration with the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA) and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) thanks to financial support from Norway. This is improving the demarcation of Gambella National Park and other aspects of spatial conservation planning in this key migration corridor rivalling the Serengeti in ecological richness. Although a workshop was scheduled to strengthen Ethiopian and South Sudanese transboundary collaboration across the corridor it has proved impossible to hold it so far due to the current political situation.

106. Funding and capacity permitting, the CMS Secretariat is looking into strengthening implementation of IUCN regional strategies for Cheetahs and Wild Dogs, as well as the associated national action plans, and supporting targeted African bat conservation through a gaps and needs assessment.
107. The Secretariat drafted the African Carnivore Initiative (UNEP/CMS/COP12/Doc 24.3.1.1.) which is submitted to COP12 for consideration and adoption.

Activity 20.2: Resolution 11.24 on the Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI)¹¹

108. COP11 adopted the CAMI through Resolution 11.24 following a comprehensive stakeholder dialogue and a gaps and needs assessment survey in 2014 with several national consultation meetings and one international stakeholder meeting hosted by the Kyrgyz Government in Bishkek, on 23-25 September 2014 to develop and finalize the CAMI Programme of Work. The CAMI Programme of Work is annexed to the Resolution and provides the roadmap for action on 15 target mammal species in 14 Range States, namely Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Details of the high priority activities and minimum cost implications for the current triennium are outlined in the POW table, which is part of this report.
109. The CAMI website was launched in 2016. A Russian translation of the website is in progress with most of the relevant information already available in Russian. A regular CAMI newsletter is being sent out bi-annually informing range states and other stakeholders about the status of implementation as well as on current and planned activities. The first issue was sent out in 2015.
110. The CMS Secretariat has sent out an open call for the nomination of Species Focal Points (SFP) for all CAMI species as requested in the POW. Suitable experts have a proven track record in research and conservation activities for CAMI species. The Secretariat identified 13 out of 15 foreseen SFP in 2015 and 2016, the last two experts identified in August 2016 during the CAMI expert workshop. The role of these expert focal points is to provide updates and information on their species and consult and liaise with both the Secretariat and the countries on relevant matters. Terms of Reference for the SFP were defined during the CAMI expert workshop, which took place 22-26 August 2016, on the Isle of Vilm, Germany.
111. The CAMI acts as a framework to facilitate implementation of the various CMS instruments and mandates targeting large mammals in the wider Central Asian region and to address major threats, such as through the development of Guidelines on Mitigating the Impact of Linear Infrastructure and Related Disturbance on Mammals in Central Asia (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.3.2) adopted at COP11 through Resolution 11.24. Several follow-up activities have taken place to ensure wide distribution and application of the guidelines, including presentation at meetings and conferences and translation into Russian.
112. In addition, CMS co-organized a workshop on “Implementing wildlife-friendly measures in infrastructure planning and design in Mongolia” on 24 to 28 August 2015 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment, Green Development and Tourism of Mongolia, the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety of Germany (BMUB), the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation of Germany (BfN) and GIZ. The main outcome of the workshop was the Ulaanbaatar Action Plan on wildlife-friendly infrastructure. The Action Plan further aims to strengthen implementation of the above-mentioned CMS infrastructure guidelines and national wildlife crossing standards. For Mongolia, such national wildlife crossing standards have already been put in place for the development of new infrastructure work.

¹¹ In the original POW the Central Asian Initiative was listed as activity 26.

113. In July 2016 CMS participated in an expert discussion on the implementation of the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Programme (GSLEP), organized by Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU). The meeting discussed important synergies between CMS and GSLEP and ways to further strengthen future cooperation and mutual support for implementation.
114. CMS has participated in several events to promote awareness and implementation, including in the mining industry conference Minex Central Asia in April 2016 (represented by ACBK, a Kazakh nature conservation NGO), a BfN and NABU organized workshop on Nature Conservation in Eastern Europe Caucasus and Central Asia in February 2016 and through issuing a joint press release on saiga antelopes and several website and social media articles featuring meetings attended and the peer-reviewed publication "The rise of border security fences forces reconsideration of wildlife conservation strategies in Eurasia".
115. On 22-26 August 2016, an expert workshop took place on the Isle of Vilm in cooperation with the International Nature Conservation Academy of the BfN and with funding from the BMUB with the participation of SFPs, scientists and experts from the region. The aim of the meeting was to identify priorities for the implementation of the CAMI POW and the possibilities of raising funds for these actions. Key outcomes included a set of 10 small scale project proposals to implement several priority actions of the POW of which two project concepts could be selected for generous funding from the Swiss Government.
116. Both selected projects have already received funding and are in the process of being implemented over the course of 2017. The first project aims at removing the fence along the Trans-Mongolian Railroad in Mongolia at regular intervals to facilitate the unhindered movement and crossing of Mongolian Gazelles and Kulan. The success of the project will be carefully monitored and constitute a pilot and test case that will be the basis for removing the fences along railroads at other places as well. This project constitutes a major milestone and contribution to the conservation of those species and an important step towards larger-scale fence and barrier removal in Mongolia and elsewhere.
117. The second project, also co-funded by the Swiss Government, aims at mapping the distribution and movement corridors of migratory mammals in combination with threats from linear infrastructure, such as railways, roads, pipelines, and border fences, across the entire Central Asian region. This migration atlas features the distribution of the ten most affected species in ten countries and the constructed and planned infrastructure. Having this information ready in one database will help to more effectively inform decision makers to take the needs of migratory species into account when building and planning any kind of infrastructure. During an expert workshop on the Isle of Vilm, co-organized by the International Nature Conservation Academy of the BfN with financing of the BMUB, the distribution and infrastructure maps have been reviewed and verified. The final atlas is currently being finalized and will become available as a pdf document and presented at COP12.
118. The CMS Secretariat along with a number of other partner organizations in the region is an implementing partner of a major large-scale project proposal that was submitted for financing to the International Climate Initiative (ICI) of the German Government. The proposal was developed under the lead of UN Environment and will focus on enhancing the conservation of key flagship migratory mammal species such as the snow leopard, the argali and the Bukhara deer in three Central Asian countries through climate-informed management and decision making, using the ecosystem-centred approach. If approved, the project will run from 2018-2021 and enable the implementation of a number of mandates and activities under CAMI.
119. The Secretariat has also further strengthened its cooperation with the International Nature Conservation Academy Isle of Vilm of the BfN. With funding from the BMUB, it is planned to co-organize two workshops in 2018, two workshops in 2019 and another meeting in 2019, each focussing on major issues to be addressed under CAMI.

Activity 20.3: International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Argali (*Ovis ammon*)

Status of implementation

120. COP11 adopted the Argali Action Plan and the final document was printed in English and Russian languages in 2015 with the kind support from the German Federal Government and the European Union, through the Regional Programme on Sustainable Use of Natural Resources in Central Asia of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ).
121. The 11 Argali Range States were requested to appoint Focal Points in February 2015. Nine nominations have been received to date, the remainder are still pending. In 2015 the CMS approach to wildlife management and conservation in Central Asia was presented at the international conference "Regional practices on sustainable use in hunting territories and protection of wildlife", which took place in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan from 1 to 3 September 2015. The conference gathered together national researchers and practitioners from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, as well as a number of international experts, to examine the principles of and share experience on sustainable wildlife management in Central Asia. CMS cooperated with partners on the organization of a round table on sustainable wildlife management in Tajikistan (organized by GIZ) in November 2016. The meeting addressed sustainable use practices for the Argali and other species and aims to strengthen capacity for the implementation of CITES and CMS.
122. Due to limited human resources and funding at the Secretariat it was not possible to organize a meeting of the Range States in 2016. However, the above-mentioned project proposal to the IKI would, if approved, offer great opportunities to advance the conservation of the Argali and implement the CMS Action Plan.

Challenges for CAMI, including Argali SSAP

- Limited staff and long-term financial resources available to effectively implement all CAMI related activities (e.g. only 50 per cent position of CAMI officer)
- To support capacity-building of various governmental and non-governmental institutions involved in the sustainable wildlife management in the region.
- To reduce the language barrier by translating key information and the CAMI website into Russian and provide constant Russian-English communication (limited resources available).

Next Steps

- To participate in and engage with Global Snow Leopard & Ecosystem Protection Programme (GSLEP) Forum that will be held in August 2017 in Bishkek
- Organize side event on the issue of mitigating the impact of barriers to the migration of migratory mammals, and presenting the "migration atlas" for Asia
- Organization of a mid-term review CAMI stakeholder and range state meeting in 2018
- Organization of a argali range states meeting in 2018/2019
- Organization together with BfN of technical workshops e.g. on addressing poaching in the region (2018-2020)
- Several activities under the proposed ICI project (2018-2021)

Activity 20.4: Resolution 11.32 on the Conservation and Management of the African Lion, *Panthera leo*

123. A Review of IUCN Regional Lion Conservation Strategies was produced by WildCru on behalf of the CMS Secretariat and shared for comments with African Lion Range States. In light of the proposal to uplist *Panthera leo* from CITES Appendix II to Appendix I and given that the species is one of the identified shares species between CITES and CMS, the CMS Secretariat cooperated with the CITES Secretariat to further implement CMS Resolution 11.32. A Joint CMS-CITES African Lion Range State meeting was convened in Entebbe, Uganda hosted by

the Government of Uganda 30-31 May 2016. Twenty-eight of the 32 African Lion Range States participated in the meeting, reviewed the Report prepared by WildCru, established that the main threat for African Lion has not changed and considered the adequacy of current listing of species under CITES as well as the benefits of listing the species under CMS. A Communiqué was adopted identifying the most urgent conservation measures and suggesting the benefits of listing *Panthera leo* under CMS Appendix II. Draft decisions were adopted by the Parties to CITES at the CITES pre-COP meeting for Africa, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia 8-12 August 2016, for submission to CITES COP17. Identifying further conservation actions to be implemented jointly between CITES and CMS.

MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING

Activity 21: Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of the Saiga Antelope (*Saiga spp.*)

Status of implementation

124. The CMS Secretariat provides the secretariat for this MOU, with technical coordination provided by two NGOs: the Association for Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan (ACBK) and the Saiga Conservation Alliance (SCA).
125. Following a call for offers in December 2014, the Government of Uzbekistan kindly agreed to host the Third Meeting of Signatories (MOS3) to the MOU in Tashkent, from 28 to 29 October 2015, preceded by a two-day technical workshop (26-27 October 2015). The participants *inter alia* reviewed the progress made since 2010, adopted a new Medium-Term International Work Programme for 2016-2020 and discussed wildlife-friendly infrastructure following the adoption of the Guidelines for Addressing the Impact of Linear Infrastructure on Large Migratory Mammals in Central Asia (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.3.2) at COP11. In addition, the workshop and MOS3 focused on combatting illegal trade in Saiga horn and meat, as well as wildlife health following the recent mass die-off event.
126. In May 2015, during the species' calving season, more than 200,000 Saiga antelopes suddenly died within two weeks in the Betpak-dala population in central Kazakhstan. It is likely that total mortality figures represent about 60% of the global population. One of the Cooperating Organizations of the MOU, ACBK, was present on the ground monitoring the die-off from the start in mid-May. The Ministry of Agriculture of Kazakhstan requested the CMS Secretariat to dispatch an emergency mission with wildlife health experts on 20 May 2015 to assist with sampling and investigating the causes of the mass die-off. Within one day the mission was set up, with Richard Kock from the Royal Veterinary College in the UK and Sergei Khomenko from FAO being sent to Kazakhstan. A large number of organizations, experts and private donors have lent support since then to address this catastrophic decline.
127. A combination of environmental and Saiga-specific factors is likely to have contributed to the die-off. Two secondary opportunistic pathogens, *Pasteurella* and *Clostridia*, have been identified from all autopsied carcasses. However, the search for the fundamental drivers of the mass mortality continues since these bacteria are only lethal to an animal if its immune system is already weakened. To date, laboratories in Kazakhstan continue to analyze samples and further samples are being exported to the UK and Germany for analysis. A full analysis was presented at MOS3, with a dedicated session of the technical workshop preceding it. This incident illustrated the need for the Scientific Taskforce on Wildlife Health established in 2011 by FAO and CMS to be revitalized.
128. In 2016, CMS Secretariat received an update on the status of the investigation of the incident from the international expert team. Researchers were able to narrow down the list of possible triggers of the opportunistic infection by excluding chemical intoxication and focusing more on climate-related factors, soil and vegetation conditions. According to the data obtained during the census of the populations in Kazakhstan in spring 2016, Saiga numbers showed some

modest signs of recovery. However, poaching remains a serious threat to the remaining animals. Funds are urgently needed to support ongoing investigations, anti-poaching activities and to rebuild what used to be the largest and healthiest Saiga population globally.

129. After MOS 3, CMS has supported the implementation of the Saiga MOU MTIWP through a number of activities. For example, the website for the Saiga MOU was launched. Through German voluntary contributions, CMS provided financial support for: 1) the coordination of the MOU by the SCA, 2) creation and the maintenance of the Saiga Resource Centre website and 3) continuing research of the die-off event of 2015 as well as 4) small-scale conservation activities. The last two points were part of one small-scale funding agreement, according to which SCA will finalize and translate a sampling protocol to support governmental laboratories in collecting samples after possible mass die off events in the future. In addition, SCA will use part of the funds to support conservation activities, within their small-scale grant programme.
130. There was major progress in the implementation of the recommendations "Saiga Crossing Options" in 2016. To reduce the negative impact of the Kazakh-Uzbek border fence on the migration of the Ustjurt population of Saiga, CMS together with Frankfurt Zoological Society and Fauna and Flora International dispatched an expert in 2013 to analyze the situation and to identify possible mitigation measures. As a result, the report "saiga crossing options" was produced with recommendations on how to modify the existing fence to make it more permeable for saiga. In 2016, ACBK and the state enterprise "Ohotzooptom" inspected the fence together with the border service of the Kazakh National Security Committee and reported that the border service had successfully completed all respective modifications.

Challenges

- To ensure sustainable funding for technical coordination, including MOU monitoring;
- To follow-up with the scientific research on the Saiga mass mortality incident, identify the causes of the recurring die-offs;
- To identify and provide guidance to the Range States on the possible management responses to prevent mass mortality incidents;
- To modify existing barriers to migration to allow Saiga herds to pass, especially in the Ustjurt population.

Next steps

- To raise funds for MOU coordination, including the Saiga Resource Centre and the Saiga News in a joint effort with CITES
- Parties to continue implementing MTIWP, in particular to combat poaching and illegal trade and to address the cause of saiga die-off events
- Seek more active cooperation with consumer countries on implementing the Medium-Term International Work Programme for the Saiga Antelope, identifying priority actions for the period 2016-2020;
- The fourth Meeting of Signatories to the MOU is being scheduled to take place in 2020.

Activity 22: Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation and Restoration of the Bukhara Deer (*Cervus elaphus bactrianus*)

Status of implementation

131. The CMS Secretariat provides the secretariat for this MOU.
132. Good progress in implementing the MOU has been made in Tajikistan, with support from the EU FLERMONECA project coordinated by GIZ. A national working group was established in September 2014, which evaluated the conservation status of Bukhara Deer across the country with field visits to the Dashtidzhum Nature Reserve, Pedzhikent Wildlife Preserve and Tigrovaya Balka Nature Reserve. In the last mentioned and the Zerafshan Wildlife Preserve, populations have stabilized, but overall the status of the species is still unfavourable. The

working group has prepared recommendations and a draft National Action Plan for Tajikistan which is currently awaiting the approval of the relevant governmental institutions. The key focus of the Plan is to increase population numbers, in close collaboration with Afghanistan and Uzbekistan.

133. The MOU benefits from the adoption of the Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI) through Resolution 11.24 and the presence of a dedicated CAMI Coordinator at the CMS Secretariat, who assists Signatories with the implementation of the wide range of CMS mandates. Activity 2.5 under the adopted CAMI Programme of Work attached to the Resolution lists Bukhara Deer activities as high priority, notably the development of National Action Plans by all Signatories, the updating of the national report format and the need for regular meetings of Signatories.
134. Under the above-mentioned IKI project proposal it would be possible to implement a number of activities of the MOU, including to host a Meeting of the Signatories.

Challenges

- Lack of financial and staff resources to implement MOU activities within the Range States and to coordinate the MOU within the Secretariat
- To identify partners that can assist in the coordination of the Bukhara Deer MOU;
- To identify international partners (e.g. NGOs, donor agencies) that can support the implementation of the Bukhara Deer MOU through their activities and/or financially;
- Further scientific research on the Bukhara deer population in Afghanistan.

Next Steps

- To organize the Meeting of Signatories of the Bukhara Deer MOU and update the Medium-Term International Work Programme (possibly in 2018/2019).

Activity 23: Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the West African Populations of the African Elephant (Loxodonta africana)

Status of implementation

135. The CMS Secretariat provides the secretariat function for this MOU.
136. Anti-poaching capacity has been strengthened in the transboundary Gourma elephant range in Burkina Faso and Mali thanks to implementation by the Wild Foundation, voluntary contributions from Monaco and support from the Direction Nationale des Eaux et Forêts (DNEF) in Mali. The project trained 157 young people from eleven villages in 2014/2015 to form a vigilance network either side of the Malian and Burkinabé border in response to the rise in incidents of elephant poaching. This trans-border network of vigilance brigades is now part of a larger Malian network of around 800 young men covering 72 settlements throughout the 32,000 km² of the elephants' range. The brigades work hand-in-hand with the authorities and are now connected across the international border through a transboundary committee. Project activities also included the construction of fire-breaks which will also protect habitat for livestock and elephants and thereby reduce competition.
137. Community representatives and wildlife officials met from 3 to 6 April 2015 in Mondoro, Mali, and agreed urgently needed conservation measures for elephants contributing to the implementation of the CMS West African Elephant MOU, including the formal establishment of a new transboundary law enforcement mechanism at the village level. A follow-up meeting is foreseen on the Burkinabé side of the border. However, funds are currently lacking.
138. The CMS Secretariat endorsed a project proposal for the mobilisation of an anti-ivory poaching Ranger force in the Gourma region of Mali submitted by the Mali Elephant Project to the African Elephant Fund. The project has not yet been accepted by the AEF Steering Committee.

139. With the African Elephant Action Plan (AEAP) being accepted as the primary tool for the conservation of African Elephants and the establishment of the African Elephant Fund to implement the Plan. A proposal (UNEP/CMS/COP12/Dpc 24.3.3) with respect to adoption of the AEAP is submitted to COP12 for consideration and adoption. CMS Parties and Signatories to the Western African Elephant MOU may wish to consider adoption the AEAP as their planning tool and implementing the Plan rather than engaging in further meeting cycles to update the Medium-Term International Work Programme under the CMS Western African Elephant MOU.

Challenges

- Lack of financial and staff resources to implement MOU activities, especially the draft transboundary project proposals developed by Range States;
- Identification of regional leaders among the range states to revive the MOU;

Next steps

- Consultations with Parties to CMS and Signatories to the MOU as well as the AEF Steering Committee on the possibility of the CMS COP endorsing the AEAP as a planning tool for elephants under CMS.
- Fundraising assistance for projects contributing to the implementation of the MOU;

Activity 24: Memorandum of Understanding for the Conservation of the South Andean Huemul (*Hippocamelus bisulcus*)

Status of implementation

140. The CMS Secretariat acts as depositary of the MOU, while secretariat functions are provided by the Signatories themselves (Argentina and Chile) in rotation. The Bi-national Plan for the Conservation of the Huemul which Argentina and Chile signed in 2012 is available on the CMS Huemul webpage.
141. In February 2015, a delegation of Argentine rangers visited two reserves in the region of Biobío in southern Chile for joint monitoring, thereby strengthening transboundary cooperation as foreseen by the MOU.
142. In April 2015, the National Forestry Corporation (CONAF) of Chile carried out Huemul monitoring in Ñuble National Reserve and surrounding areas *inter alia* to assess the impact of forest fires in this region in March 2015. The survey results suggest that there was no impact on the Huemul population.
143. In Argentina, new conservation strategies have been developed to manage Huemul populations in sites affected by fires. Monitoring and Huemul research took place during the reporting period in the regions of Neuquén and Chubut, as well as the National Parks Los Alerces, Los Glaciares, Lago Puelo, Lanín, Nahuel Huapi and Perito Moreno, with emphasis on recently burned sites. Necropsy protocols were developed and camera traps installed. The Directorate of Fauna and Flora of Chubut has set up an online reporting form for Huemul information. The Huemul national data record under the Biodiversity Information System has been extended.
144. A document on ex-situ conservation has been prepared by a Technical Committee, as foreseen by the Bi-national Plan. In Argentina, the 5th Meeting of the Management Committee of the National Plan for Huemul was conducted during the reporting period. Government staff from different levels of jurisdiction involved in the conservation of Huemul were trained through workshops and other capacity-building means. Awareness-raising and education were improved in schools and a number of communities, benefiting from printed information materials and an updated website.

145. In 2016, surveys of the Chilean Huemul populations were carried out in the protected areas of Biobio, Los Lagos, Aysen and Magallanes using both traditional surveys as well as camera traps. In the Aysen region, some specimens were recorded with swellings in different parts of the body. Tissue samples were then taken by CONAF and SAG, and analysis confirmed presence of *Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis*, the bacterium that produces *Lymphadenitis caseosa*, a disease normally found in sheep.

Challenges

- Chilean populations infected with disease normally present in domestic livestock; No action at this time, but conservation measures might be required at a later date.

Next Steps

- Continue soliciting updates from the field re: the *Lymphadenitis caseosa* situation; Take measures if deemed necessary
- Strengthen implementation of the Bi-national Action Plan, for example through the expansion of existing protected areas, continued capacity-building and education/outreach activities, strengthened monitoring and data management, including spatial mapping with inclusion of alien species and other threats

Activity 25: Action Plan for the conservation and restoration of the Sahelo-Saharan antelopes

Status of implementation

146. The CMS Action Plan on Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes consists of two parts: status reports on the target species, and population-specific actions adopted by the range states. The actions of the old Action Plan were last adopted by the 14 Range States in 1998, the species status reports were updated in 2006. The 15th Meeting of the Sahelo-Saharan Interest Group (29 April–1 May 2015, Abu Dhabi, UAE) reviewed the structure of the updated document and recommended to add the Barbary Sheep (*Ammotragus lervia*; Appendix II) to the Action Plan as requested by Algeria and Tunisia and to further add the Red-fronted Gazelle (*Eudorcas rufifrons*), which was added to CMS Appendix I by COP11. The Species Reports are currently being updated under the chairmanship of the IUCN Antelope Specialist Group thanks to financial support from the US Fish & Wildlife Service's Conservation Enhancement Fund, and is currently undergoing technical review.
147. Reintroduction of Scimitar-horned Oryx into Chad took place in 2016, thanks to strong long-term collaboration of multiple partners, Range States and donors, in the framework of the government of Chad's Scimitar-horned Oryx Reintroduction Programme. After acclimatization, they were released into the wild, were observed behaving naturally, and several births were recorded.

Challenges

- Lack of financial resources to implement Action Plan activities, as well as to hold a Meeting of Range States;
- Challenging security situation in large parts of the Sahara and Sahel making wildlife management and anti-poaching operations more difficult;
- Oil and gas development threatens critical habitats in Niger;
- Recent decline of the Addax due to disturbance and poaching issues has put the species on the brink of extinction;

Next Steps

- Reintroduction of Scimitar-horned Oryx into Chad: more releases are expected to occur, until the population reaches about 200-300.

- Meeting of Range States planned to take place in 2016/2017 was postponed due to lack of financial resources and political instability in the region.
- Meeting of Addax Range States to be held as soon as possible, tentatively under the umbrella of CMS, IUCN Antelope Specialist Group and IUCN Reintroduction Specialist Group, to address the rapid decline of Addax population in 2016.

New Activity: Action to Conserve the African Wild Ass

148. At the request of the German Government, CMS started work to address the conservation of this highly endangered species. Work began with a kick-off meeting on 9 June 2016 in Bonn between CMS, the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) of Germany, and NGO partners.
149. Work continued with an International Range State meeting in Bonn, Germany, 6-7 March 2017. During this meeting, countries came together to discuss status, threats, and potential conservation measures, and initial steps for a Conservation roadmap were laid out and agreed upon. In a side-meeting, the current Range States of Eritrea and Ethiopia discussed listing the species under CMS.

Challenges

- Difficult political climate in the region
- Need to identify financing for further conservation measures

Next Steps

- Finalization of the Conservation Roadmap, and voting on the "Conservation of the African Wild Ass" Resolution at COP12
- Review of African Wild Ass species listing proposals submitted by Eritrea and Ethiopia by the Second Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the CMS Scientific Council, and adoption of the listing at Appendix I and II at COP12.
- Support of activities identified in the Conservation Roadmap

III.4 SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY SERVICES

Activity 28: Implementation of Resolutions

Activity 28.1: Res. 11.25 Ecological Networks¹²

Status of Implementation

150. COP11 adopted wide-ranging measures and recommendations to strengthen ecological networks and connectivity through Resolution 11.25, following on from Resolution 10.3 in 2011.
151. A specific activity foreseen by Resolution 11.1 provides for stimulating the implementation of the Resolution on Ecological Networks particularly in Africa by programme planning in 2015 and a kick-start meeting in 2016. In this regard, the Secretariat developed a project concept, which foresees as a first step the production of an assessment on the status of key migration corridors for large mammals in Africa, with a view to identifying those factors limiting conservation success and ultimately to identifying priorities for conservation action (species, habitats). The analysis would also aim at deepening the existing knowledge of current efforts, and understanding where and how CMS can provide an added value as legal framework. In order to ensure high validation of the assessment as well as ownership of stakeholders, data collection and preparation will be done in a participatory and consultative process. A review phase is foreseen to give all stakeholders (e.g. IUCN SSGs, NGOs) the opportunity to further improve and comment on the assessment, which is expected to be concluded by an expert

¹² This activity was listed as activity 34 at the original POW.

workshop to review and finalize the document, identify priority activities for pilot projects, and recommend coordination arrangements to ensure sustainable implementation. Active fundraising has been undertaken in order to secure resources to implement the activities mentioned above. At the time of writing, some positive replies have been received from potential donors, but funding has not been secured yet.

152. Amongst the CMS Family instruments, there have been numerous activities to better understand the movements of CMS-listed species, primarily through satellite collaring, for example in Ethiopia and South Sudan on White-eared Kob, in Kazakhstan on Saiga antelopes and for raptors through the African Raptor Data Bank (ARDB), a citizen science non-profit project that already holds more than 100,000 records of birds of prey seen in Africa.
153. A technical workshop on migratory connectivity was convened from 28 to 30 September 2015 in the Veneto region of Italy thanks to the organization and fundraising by the Chair of the Scientific Council in close cooperation with the Veneto Po Delta Regional Park and UNESCO. Progress on this initiative is reported in more detail under the activity *facilitating the Work of the Scientific Council*.
154. At the invitation of the UAE Government, marine experts from 15 North-West Indian Ocean countries participated in a regional workshop to describe marine areas meeting criteria developed under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs). The workshop was hosted by the UAE's Ministry of Environment and Water, and organized by the CBD Secretariat with support from CMS Office – Abu Dhabi. The Office mobilized CMS expert networks for marine mammals, marine turtles, sharks and seabirds, and arranged their inputs into the meeting, and with funding from the International Whaling Commission, it facilitated the participation of the CMS Appointed Councillor for Aquatic Mammals. Twelve of the participating countries were either CMS Parties and/or signatories to one or more CMS agreements. Thirty-one marine areas were described as meeting the EBSA criteria. Migratory species correlated strongly with 30 of the 31 areas described. Most proposals were for marine areas in national waters, but proposals also included transboundary areas as well as marine areas located beyond the limits of national jurisdiction as well.
155. The Secretariat provided inputs to the Strategy document “*Larger than elephants, inputs for an EU strategic approach to wildlife conservation in Africa*” developed by the Directorate General of Development and Cooperation (DG DevCo) of the European Commission, supporting relevant strategic elements such as the use and promotion of Key Landscapes for Conservation (KLC), Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCA) and individual sites of outstanding conservation value, and advocating the consideration of the connectivity dimension of critical sites, corridors, community-managed lands, the wider fabric of the landscape they sit within, and the ecological processes that bind them together. Together with CITES and UNODC, CMS was chosen as lead implementing partner in a multi-million EU project for the Southern African Development Community (SADC), Eastern African Community (EAC) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) regions. CMS' role will be to identify and establish Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs) in close cooperation with these three Regional Economic Communities and the countries concerned. As part of this activity, CMS will also be able to identify key migratory corridors for CMS-listed species, thus contributing to the implementation of CMS Resolution 11.25. Details are being negotiated with the EU and partners over the coming months. Funding received from the Government of Switzerland to initiate the implementation of CMS Resolution 11.25 through the convening of an expert workshop on the identification of key migratory corridors have therefore, in consultation with the Swiss Government, been reallocated to the implementation of CMS Resolution 11.7 on *Enhancing the Effectiveness of the Convention through a Process to Review Implementation*.
156. In October 2015, the Secretariat together with the Secretariat of CITES and UNODC submitted a project document to the European Commission for funding Cross-Regional Wildlife

Conservation in Eastern and Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean, with the objectives of (i) Capacity and collaboration for combating wildlife crime impacting CITES-listed species in key transboundary conservation landscapes strengthened; (ii) Anti-trafficking efforts enhanced; and (iii) The establishment and sustainable management of Trans-Frontier Conservation Areas promoted and strengthened. The project implements the 11th EDF Regional Indicative Programme and aligns to both the policies of the regional economic communities (Eastern African Community, Southern African Development Community and Intergovernmental Authority for Development) and the EU "Larger than Elephants Approach to wildlife conservation in Africa" and the EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking. CMS will be the lead implementing agency responsible for the establishment of Transfrontier Conservation Areas in the regions. The project document was refined over the course of the past two years and is awaiting final approval by the European Commission.

157. Under the Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI), the project to map the distribution and movement corridors of several species and overlay them existing and planned infrastructure projects constitutes an important contribution to the implementation of ecological networks in the region. It also holds considerable potential to act as a pilot that can be applied for other regions and mammal species as well. The Secretariat is actively seeking funding to develop the resulting 'migration atlas' in pdf from into an interactive web-tool that would facilitate easy access and understanding about information on species movements and the need to take those into account when planning any infrastructure projects (see also paragraph 104 above).

Challenges

- At the time of writing, prospects to raise funds to at least start the planned activities in Africa are good, but funding has not been confirmed yet.

Next steps

- Fundraising efforts to support the preparation of the assessment on the status of migration corridors in Africa will be continued. The assessment will be contracted out as soon as resources become available.

Activity 28.2: Res. 11.27 Renewable Energy

Status of implementation

158. Resolution 11.27 instructs the Secretariat to convene a multi-stakeholder Task Force on Reconciling Selected Energy Sector Developments with Migratory Species Conservation (the Energy Task Force). As initial steps towards the establishment of the Task Force (TF), the Secretariat, in consultation with stakeholders, worked towards the definition of elements of a Work Programme for the TF for the triennium 2015-2017, as well as activities for a Coordinator to facilitate the implementation of the Work Programme. Thanks to a generous voluntary contribution from the Government of Germany, resources were secured for the coordination and basic functioning of the TF for the triennium 2015-2017. Arrangements for the recruitment of the Coordinator and support to the functioning of the TF were established with BirdLife International. With a view to obtaining advice on prospective members of the TF, the Secretariat established a small advisory group composed of representatives of the AEWA Secretariat, the CMS Scientific Council and AEWA Technical Committee, the German Federal Environment Ministry and BirdLife International. Based on the advice from the group, invitations to prospective members of the TF were sent out in July 2016.
159. The Energy Task Force held its first meeting in Cape Town, South Africa, 1-2 December 2016. A report of the meeting can be accessed [here](#).
160. The main outcomes of the meeting include:
- the elaboration and adoption of the [Modus Operandi](#) of the Task Force, building on and expanding the Terms of Reference contained in Resolution 11.27;

- the development and adoption of a [Work Plan for the Energy Task Force for 2017-2018](#), designed on the remit of the Task Force as defined in Resolution 11.27;
- the adoption of a '[Cape Town Declaration](#)', to serve as a tool to inform stakeholders about the objectives of the Energy Task Force and its approach to achieve them;
- the establishment of a Technical Working Group of the Energy Task Force with the task to carry out a selected number of activities, including to: identify key research priorities and communicate these to the Energy Task Force and to inform future engagement with research institutions; review existing guidance material to identify gaps, and prepare a series of technical notes to accompany the existing CMS/AEWA guidelines if needed; and convene a process to review and compare existing sensitivity mapping tools, and provide recommendations on these to the Energy Task Force.

161. A remote meeting via teleconference took place on 6 April 2017, where members discussed developments and follow-up of the First meeting of the Energy Task Force.

162. The 2nd Meeting of the Energy Task Force is scheduled to take place in Bonn, Germany, 14-15 September 2017, at the CMS Secretariat's premises.

Challenges

- In a multi-stakeholder Task Force such as the one foreseen, in which multiple and potentially conflicting interests are expected to be represented, a key element for the success of the initiative is expected to be the careful selection of its initial membership. Hence the decision of the Secretariat to engage in consultations and seek advice from key partners and stakeholders for this crucial step. While this delayed to some extent the establishment of the Task Force, the Task Force is now fully operational.

Next steps

- Organize the second meeting of the Energy Task Force in September 2017.
- Secure funding for the coordination and operation of the Task Force beyond December 2017.

Activity 28.3: Resolution 11.31 on Fighting Wildlife Crime and Offences within and beyond Borders

163. Within the framework of its dedicated instruments, such as the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), the Gorilla Agreement, the MOUs on Elephants, Saiga Antelopes, Sharks, Raptors and IOSEA marine turtles (see relevant sections throughout this report) and the Joint CITES-CMS Work Programme 2015-2020, the CMS Family is actively addressing wildlife crime, with an emphasis on domestic poaching and trade. A factsheet on Wildlife Crime has been prepared and CMS Management has raised the profile of the matter on numerous occasions, including recent meetings of the Collaborative Partnership on Wildlife Management (CPW) and the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee (28 June – 8 July 2015, Bonn, Germany).

Activity 29: Facilitating the Work of the Scientific Council

Status of implementation

164. Main efforts have been towards the implementation of provisions of Resolution 11.4, in particular the development of Terms of Reference for the Scientific Council (ScC) and the establishment and operationalization of the Sessional Committee. Terms of Reference for the Scientific Council were approved by StC44 on the basis of a draft prepared by the Secretariat. StC44 also defined the membership of the Sessional Committee for the triennium 2015-2017 and gave guidance to the Secretariat on the definition of a process to select the members of the Sessional Committee as of COP12. A first meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council was convened in Bonn from 18 to 21 April 2016.

165. The Secretariat has provided assistance to the Chair of the ScC in the organization of a CMS ScC workshop on connectivity. The Secretariat's input has concerned principally the definition of the list of invitees and the workshop's programme. The workshop took place in Venice from

28-30 September 2015, and was convened in cooperation with the Veneto Po Delta Regional Park and UNESCO. More details were provided in the report of the Chair of the ScC to StC44.

Challenges

- The fact that the Sessional Committee could only be appointed towards the end of 2015 has delayed the planning of activities of the ScC for the triennium 2015-2017. However, the current triennium constitutes a transitional phase to the new form of operation of the Scientific Council foreseen by Resolution 11.4, and the new organizational setting and procedures are expected to become fully operational as of COP12.

Next steps

- Secretariat to assist the Scientific Council in the revision of its Rules of Procedure.
- 2nd meeting of the Sessional Committee to be convened in the run-up to COP12, most likely in July 2017.

Activity 30: Coordinating preparations of review report on the conservation status of species listed on CMS Appendices

Status of implementation

166. The Secretariat liaised with various organizations that could provide input to this initiative, including UNEP-WCMC, IUCN Species Survival Commission, BirdLife International. A scoping workshop, aimed at identifying options and developing Terms of Reference was convened thanks to a generous voluntary contribution from the Government of Switzerland. The main outcome of the workshop consisted of a scoping paper for the establishment of a “State of the World’s Migratory Species” report: Options for a flagship report to inform CMS decision-making.

Challenges

- Financial resources for the production of the report could not be secured. The Secretariat invested the resources raised in the production of a project concept providing for costed alternative options for the report, to be used for further fundraising efforts.

Next steps

- Finalize the scoping paper.
- Continue fundraising efforts to raise resources for the production of the Report.

Activity 31: Coordinating Implementation of the Small Grant Programme

Status of implementation

167. Since COP11, work plans were finalized and contracts signed with the implementing organizations for the projects selected for support within the 2014 cycle of the programme. Project implementation was monitored. No new calls for project proposals could be launched in the absence of voluntary contributions in support of the programme.

Challenges

- The programme requires significant resources to be meaningful. However, the identification of such resources through voluntary contributions is proving to be a challenge. A generous voluntary contribution from UN Environment of US\$300,000 allowed some support to be provided to the programme during the triennium 2012-2014, and contributions of the same order of magnitude would have been needed for the current triennium for the programme to have an impact, and justify the amount of effort needed by all actors to keep it running in the current setting. Further challenges are related to the capacity of the Secretariat to run such programme.

Next steps

- Consider alternatives to the current organizational setting for the programme

Activity 32: Development of Atlas on Animal Migration

Status of implementation

168. This is an ambitious initiative, which is expected to be continued also in future triennia. For the current triennium, the POW foresaw to start with migratory birds in the African Eurasian region. The Secretariat has liaised with the Chair of the ScC and other stakeholders with a view to building support for the initiative, and develop terms of reference (ToR) and a detailed project concept. A concept on the development of an atlas on bird migration using as a basis the Euring Databank was presented at the 1st meeting of the Sessional Committee of ScC, which endorsed it.
169. A generous voluntary contribution of ca. €1 million is being provided by the Government of Italy to implement the concept.

Challenges

- This is an ambitious initiative for which the Convention is expected to play a catalytic role. A main challenge will be to generate support to, and participation in the initiative from the research and conservation practitioner communities across a broad range of taxa. In this regard, the ScC is expected to play a crucial role in reaching out to these communities.
- Even assuming an implementation of the initiative by modules, resources needed are expected to be very significant, probably beyond the possibilities of the Convention's traditional donors. The need to approach other types of donors and funding programmes is therefore anticipated.

Next steps

- Finalization of the donor agreement with the Government of Italy and launch of the project.
- Continue efforts to generate support for the initiative within the research and conservation practitioners' communities
- Approach further potential donors for fundraising

Activity 33: Facilitate the Implementation of the Programme of Work on Climate Change and Prepare Progress Report to COP12

Status of implementation

170. A meeting of the Working Group on Climate Change established within the ScC was convened in February 2017 thanks to a generous voluntary contribution from the Government of Germany. In May 2017, the Secretariat hosted a telephone conference of the Working Group aimed at assessing progress in the implementation of decisions made at the meeting and agree on input to COP12.
171. Discussions with a view to identifying possible collaboration have been initiated with potential partners such as the Bern Convention and the IUCN SSC Specialist Group on Climate Change.

Challenges

- Efforts to secure resources for the convening of the meeting of the Working Group on Climate Change were successful only towards the end of the triennium.

Next steps

- Finalize input from the CCWG to COP12
- Continue contacts with potential partners to identify synergies and collaborations

IV RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND INTERAGENCY AFFAIRS

Status of Implementation

172. Significant progress has been made both on raising funding for the implementation of priority activities for the triennium and on strengthening collaboration with MEAs and with IGOs and Civil Society. Details are included in the separate reports being UNEP/CMS/COP12/Doc.14.3 “Resource Mobilization” and UNEP/CMS/COP12/Doc.23.1 “Synergies and Partnerships including the Relationship between the CMS Family and the Civil Society”.

Challenges

- Unfortunately, no progress has been made to strengthen the regional presence of CMS in Africa, the Pacific and Latin America. The establishment of regional coordinators in these three regions was included in the list of funding priorities sent to all Parties in April 2015 and February 2016. No funding has been obtained to date.

Next Steps

- Continue identifying funding opportunities and approaching potential donors;
- Continue strengthening existing collaborations and engaging in strategic ones;
- Explore other ways to establish the above-mentioned regional coordinators;
- Revamp and expand the CMS Ambassadors programme to support CMS implementation.

V INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH

Status of implementation

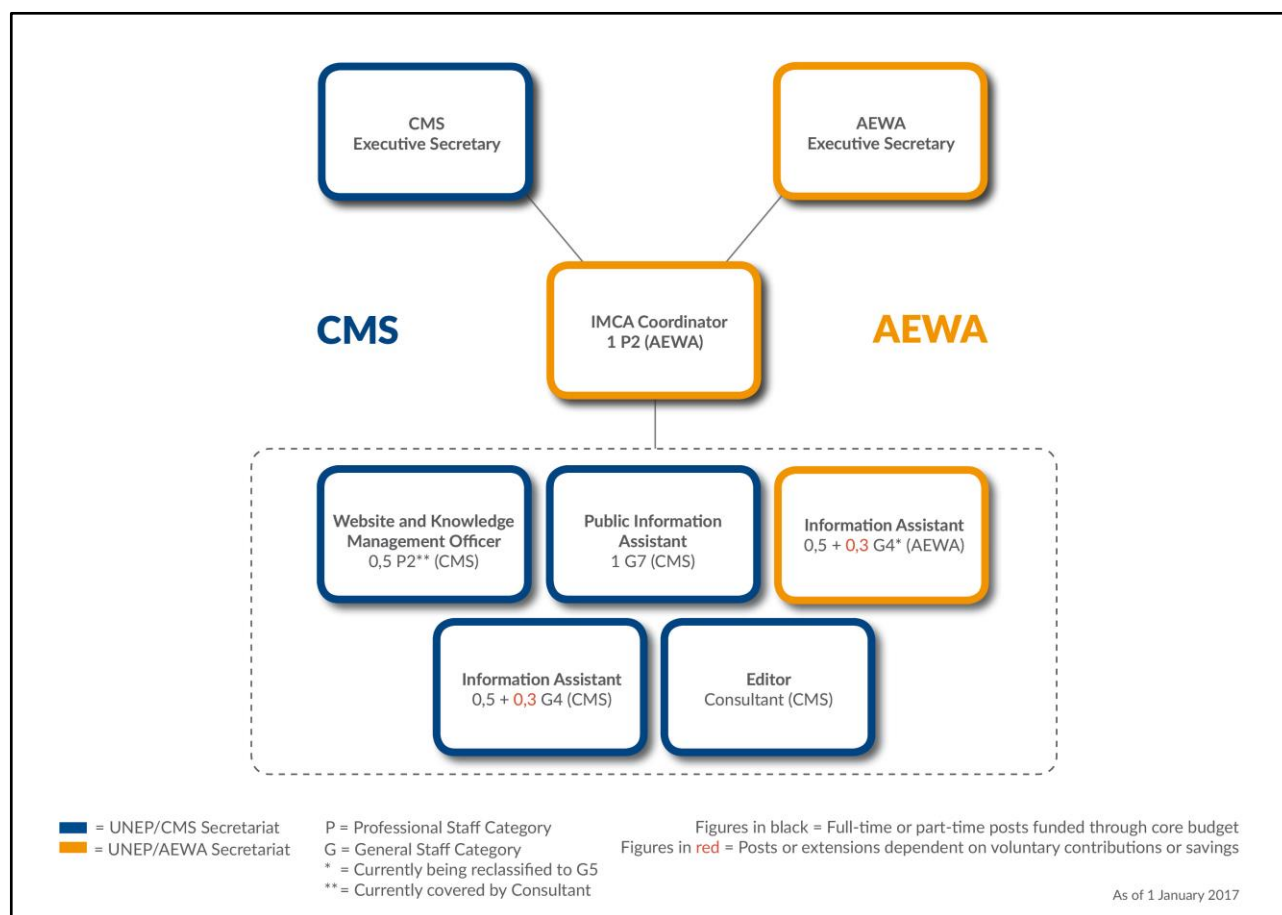
Joint Communications Unit

173. As a pilot project to examine the feasibility of greater collaborative work and synergies within the CMS Family, the Common Information Management, Communication and Awareness-Raising (IMCA) Team was established in January 2014. It serves both the CMS and AEWA Secretariat and continues to operate under the day-to-day leadership of the AEWA Information Officer as Coordinator of the IMCA Unit. The other members of the Joint Unit are the CMS Public Information Assistant, a CMS part-time Website and Knowledge Management Officer (currently filled by a full-time consultant), a part-time CMS Information Assistant, a part-time AEWA Information Assistant, a CMS Consultant Editor and a varying number of interns.

Management of the Joint Unit

174. The IMCA Unit is jointly managed by the CMS Executive Secretary and the AEWA Executive Secretary, while the IMCA Coordinator (the AEWA Information Officer) has the responsibility for the day-to-day management of the team. Over the course of the past three years since the establishment of the Unit in January 2014, much progress has been made in terms of transforming the Unit into an effective shared team that serves a wide range of communication, information management and outreach needs of both the UNEP/CMS and UNEP/AEWA Secretariats. This has been achieved through a re-organization and specialization process that focused on establishing “core communications and information management capacity” within the team in the areas of 1. Website and Knowledge Management, 2. Screen and Print Design, 3. Writing & Editorial Service, 4. Press and Media (incl. social media) and 5. Campaigns and Outreach. For more background information about the shared IMCA Unit, its management modalities and its activities, please see Document: UNEP/AEWA/StC/12.16 “Report of the Joint CMS/AEWA Information Management, Communication and Awareness-raising (IMCA) Unit”.

175. The organigram below describes the current composition of the IMCA Unit showing the regular staff and consultant positions contributed by the UNEP/CMS and UNEP/AEWA Secretariats to the Joint Unit:



176. As the above figure shows, the IMCA team consists of several part-time positions. It should also be noted that the available core budget capacity is clearly not sufficient and the Secretariats continuously need to address the shortfall by extending staff through voluntary contributions or savings. For example, a part-time Website and KM Officer is clearly not sufficient to cover the amount of work that this person has to take care of for both CMS and AEWA Secretariats. This shortfall has been temporarily addressed through the hiring of an international consultant on a full-time basis instead of filling the 50 per cent staff position. The same goes for the Information Assistant positions at both CMS and AEWA (two part-time positions which are increased when voluntary contributions or savings allow). As the independent re-classification exercise has confirmed, the position of the IMCA Team Coordinator is currently under-graded, as the new management and supervisory function would require the incumbent to be at least classified at a P3 level. The upgrade of the part-time AEWA Information Assistant from G-4 to G-5 is currently in the pipeline, while the same upgrade from G-4 to G-5 would also be appropriate for the CMS Information Assistant.

177. The IMCA Coordinator has over the past years established a number of management tools and procedures, which have significantly improved the operation of the Unit. These include:

- **A Communications Pipeline** – An always up-to-date table of upcoming CMS and AEWA events and activities which require communications support from the IMCA Unit. The pipeline has evolved into a useful planning and management tool for the Unit, as it defines the specific communication activities being planned (website news, press releases, social media, videos etc.) and the IMCA staff involved in each activity.
- **Regular Editorial Meetings** – The IMCA Unit holds weekly editorial meetings to coordinate and plan its work. The regular meetings are led by the IMCA Coordinator and used to discuss and review the latest Communications Pipeline.
- **Time and Task Monitoring Tool** – A time and task tracking tool has been established to be able to monitor and report on the actual work being conducted by the IMCA Unit for each Secretariat. The online tool allows each member of the team to log their work

according to pre-defined projects and activities per client (i.e. CMS, AEWA or JOINT). The tool can also produce overview reports that will aid the general management of the Unit and will help ensure that the 1/3 – 2/3 arrangement is fulfilled. **IMCA Unit Programme of Work** - As of January 2017, the work of the IMCA Unit is being guided by an annual **Programme of Work (PoW)** specifically for the Unit that is developed by the IMCA Coordinator and approved by both the Executive Secretary of CMS and AEWA. The POW is intended to improve the overall planning and help to prioritize the work being done by the IMCA Unit for each respective Secretariat on a yearly basis.

Communications Strategy

178. As a first step towards implementing a more strategic approach to communicate within CMS, as foreseen in the current POW, the CMS and AEWA Secretariats embarked on a project to develop strategically aligned communications strategies for CMS and AEWA. A consultant was engaged to develop the communication strategies using voluntary contributions received from Germany. The consultant provided a draft CMS and AEWA Communication Strategy, which were reviewed by the two Secretariats. AEWA's Communication Strategy was adopted by AEWA Parties at MOP6 in November 2015 through AEWA Resolution 6.10 (UNEP/AEWA/MOP6/Res. 6.10) following a request. Workshops to support the development of communication action plans were originally foreseen, but could not be held due to lack of funding.

Main Achievements & Tasks Undertaken

179. The IMCA Team was responsible for the organization of the annual World Migratory Bird Day in 2015, 2016 and 2017, and contributions were made to a number of key CMS Family events and meetings (Sharks MOS, AEWA MOP, MIKT, CMS COP12) as well as several other relevant international days, such as World Environment Day, World Wildlife Day, International Day of Biodiversity (IYB), World Fish Migration Day and World Wetlands Day. A number of op-eds (opposite the editorial articles) have been prepared and were published in various media, some of which published the article in up to ten languages. Press releases were prepared and distributed in collaboration with UNEP, interviews arranged for several meetings and events, an event which triggered unprecedented global media interest, in this reporting period was the mass mortality of Saiga Antelopes in Kazakhstan, an event which media continue to report on along with other CAMI-related topics.

Meetings (AEWA MOP, Sharks MOS, MIKT, CMS COP12)

180. In 2015 and 2016, a strong focus of the Unit was to support communication efforts around AEWA MOP6 which took place in November 2015. Bird-related topics starting with the listing of vulture species at the Second Meeting of the Signatories to the Raptors MOU in 2015 continue to garner strong media interest along with the International Task Force on Illegal Killing of Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT) which has had meetings in both Egypt and Malta. Also, efforts focused on wildlife crime and on promoting the outcome of the Second Meeting of the Signatories to the Sharks MOU, which took place in Costa Rica in February 2016. Since the end of 2016, the IMCA Unit has been primarily working on preparations for CMS COP12, coordinating all the communications and information management related work for the COP in Manila, the Philippines in October 2017.

AEWA MOP6

181. For the first time in AEWA's history, a dedicated web-based newsroom was created to provide an overview of articles on topics pertaining to the AEWA MOP6. Every day of the meeting news stories, press information and expert videos including a message by UNEP's Executive Director, populated the special webpage and generated considerable web traffic. The series "People behind AEWA" initiated along with the 20th Anniversary of AEWA was also a well-received featured, which was implemented in close cooperation with the wider AEWA Secretariat team and the various AEWA personalities being profiled online.

182. On the occasion of MOP6, in cooperation with the City of Bonn, a series of large printed banners were produced featuring AEWA Flagship Species. The banners were a prominent visual branding element along the main street leading from the subway station to the venue of AEWA MOP6 at the UN Bonn Premises. They were received extremely positively by the delegates and the wider public.
183. A social media pack in English and French containing key messages and appealing images was distributed through the UN Social Media Group, which triggered considerable engagement by UNEP, other UN entities and the wider community of MEAs. Tweets could be followed in a separate column on the dedicated AEWA MOP6 Newsroom webpage.
184. At the venue, the CITES-initiated road exhibition “Wild and Precious” which had already been displayed at COP11 was extended to include further AEWA species for AEWA MOP6.

Sharks MOS2

185. Overall 100 articles were published on Sharks MOS2. UNEP News Centre, United Nations Regional Information Centre and several news wires (All Africa, dpa, EFE, EFE verde, Fox News Latino), internationally renowned media outlets such as the Guardian and El País as well as different stakeholders such as conservation groups and fishing industries reported on the meeting. Media coverage included important fishing nations and non-Parties such as Japan. Due to the presence of the Costa Rican President, national TV stations covered Sharks MOS2. Media in six regions reported on Sharks MOS2 in English, French, Spanish, Chinese, German and Italian. An op-ed on shark conservation was published by twelve media outlets across the globe.

UNEA2, May 2016

186. The CMS Family and BirdLife International joined forces at the Second Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) and organized a side event to promote their work aiming at ensuring that renewable energy installations are deployed in ways that have no adverse impact on migratory species such as birds and bats. The event informed about the establishment of the the International Multi-Stakeholder Energy Task Force under the CMS Family.
187. In addition, “Healthy vultures, healthy people” was the title of a side event on vultures convened by BirdLife International in the margins of UNEA. Together with the UNEP Regional Office Africa, IUCN and several NGOs, CMS contributed to highlight the importance of vulture conservation to the delivery of the three pillars of sustainable development. The IMCA Team provided substantial input to both events by promoting the events before and during the events through the website and social media channels in terms of content preparation.

Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT)

188. About 30 articles were published on the first meeting of the MIKT held in Cairo in July 2016. UNEP News Centre, important international media such as Deutsche Welle and Al-Ahram as well as news wires (All Africa) reported on the event. Media coverage included countries where migratory birds are especially affected by illegal activities both Parties and non-Parties. Articles were published in three regions and four languages: English, Arabic, German and Italian.

Support to Other CMS Family Meetings

189. In the run-up to many of these meetings, staff of the joint unit were involved in setting up dedicated web-pages, and preparing, proofreading and posting documents on the CMS and AEWA websites. The consultant editor served as report writer at the AEWA MOP; the 44th and 45th meetings of the CMS Standing Committee; the first and second meetings of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council (Bonn, Germany, 2016 and 2017); the Meetings of the Signatories to the Raptors MOU (Trondheim, Norway, 2015), to the Sharks MOU (San José, 2016), to the Saiga MOU (Tashkent, 2015) and to the Dugong MOU (Abu Dhabi, 2017); to the Bycatch Working Group (Bonn, 2016), the review Process Working Group (Bonn, 2016)

and Climate Change Working Group (Bonn, 2017) and at the first two meetings of the MIKT (Cairo, 2016 and Sliema, Malta 2017); and the African Wild Ass Workshop (Bonn, 2017).

Global Campaign: World Migratory Bird Day

190. The IMCA Unit is in charge of organizing the annual World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD), a flagship global awareness-raising campaign of the CMS and AEWA Secretariats. The work of the Unit includes developing all the custom information materials and tools needed for each campaign, from the main campaign poster to the website, to trailers and other promotional material. The campaign stimulates hundreds of events around the world each year. Since 2006, more than 2,500 events have been registered in 139 different countries and territories worldwide.
191. The WMBD theme in 2015 was “Energy – make it bird-friendly!” – highlighting the importance of deploying energy technologies in a way that prevents, minimizes and mitigates impacts on migratory birds and their habitats.
192. In the run-up to 10 May 2016, the CMS and AEWA Secretariats through the collective efforts of the IMCA Team, reached out to dedicated organizations, governments and people all over the world to participate in World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) and to register events on the Website. In 2016, under the theme “.... and when the skies fall silent? Stop the illegal killing, taking and trade!” more than 300 events were registered in 85 countries. For the fourth consecutive year, the operatic choir Lirica San Rocco from Bologna, Italy gave a benefit concert in Bonn, Germany.
193. The 2017 theme was linked to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and to the CMS COP12 theme: "Their Future is our Future - A healthy planet for migratory birds and people" shed light on the topic of "Sustainable Development for Wildlife and People", highlighting the interdependence of people and nature, and demonstrating that bird conservation also contributes to the sustainable management of our natural resources and hence is crucial for the future of humankind. Due to the lack of funding, both the official poster and trailer for the campaign were created by United Nations Volunteers. 2017 also saw some positive developments with regards to future collaboration between WMBD and IMBD, the sister campaign in the Americas (International Migratory Bird Day).
194. WMBD 2016 and 2017 were also record breaking campaigns when it comes to social media and web outreach. A strategy using both Facebook and Twitter has generated a far greater impact than previous years' campaigns. In 2016 alone, the social media outreach helped generate more than 58 million tweet impressions and reached more than 18 million users. Even though less than Twitter, Facebook also helped with awareness-raising with more than 210,000 users reached in 2016.
195. Amongst highlights of the past two years, one can single out a massive UN official website and social media account involvement in the campaign with specific WMBD-related tweets to their over 7+ million followers and 10 per cent of the overall WMBD website traffic being driven by a featured article on un.org. Most of the elements used by the UN or UNEP websites and social media were produced by the Joint Communication team. In addition, WMBD also generated a great amount of media interest around the world.
196. The AEWA Plan of Action for Africa foresees the provision of seed funding to support the annual celebration of WMBD in Africa. Thanks to a voluntary contribution from the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) provided through the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat, a number of African Contracting Parties received support for the organization of national and transboundary events for both the 2015 and 2016 WMBD celebrations. The events have been organized with the help of the BirdLife Africa Partnership Secretariat. Unfortunately, there was no funding available to support similar activities in 2017.

Websites, Online Tools, Video Productions and Social Media

197. The CMS Family websites, an umbrella for 25 individual websites of separate CMS instruments, 18 online technical/ scientific workspaces, two online meeting registration tools and a newsroom platform (used during COPs and MOPs) continue to be maintained with available in-house capacity. The CMS Family websites have so far served more than 500,000 visitors and recorded over 1.5 million page views since January 2015.
198. The joint Unit is also participating in the steering committee of several international Information and Communication Technology (ICT) related initiatives and projects, for example the MEA Information and Knowledge Management Initiative (IKM) which is responsible for InforMea portal and an EU-funded project to further enhance the Online Reporting System (ORS) for MEAs being led by UNEP-WCMC.
199. The IMCA Team manages a total of 15 social media platforms, actively engaging the general public and partners on important issues that CMS or AEWA have on their agenda. Multimedia contents and concise infographics have contributed to a high degree of post reach and post engagement. The CMS social media platforms have for instance recorded an audience growth of 24 per cent since early 2015.
200. Professional, industry standard in-house produced video statements and other audio-visual material and interviews of international experts, National Focal Points and CMS Scientific Councillors are being published regularly on CMS, AEWA and WMBD websites and social media channels.

Regular News Production (Website and E-Newsletter)

201. Twice a week typically, news articles featuring CMS Family activities, accessions, topics or species of interest to the Convention are being published. Together with other media featured on the Media Watch page, over 500+ news items were made available online. Press releases are being distributed to inform relevant media outlets on conservation success, species news, outcomes of CMS meetings and policy implementation, Op-eds raise awareness on controversial topics and help gain political acceptance before important meetings. The news pages are supported by appealing visual and audio-visual materials including photos and videos and are being actively promoted through the official website and electronic newsletter and via the Convention's social media channels. The Joint Unit has contributed to the design, editing and drafting of a number of in-house publications, including several new fact sheets and technical publications.

Preparations for COP12

202. The IMCA Unit has been working hard on CMS COP12 preparations since late 2016 / early 2017. The goal is to use the occasion of the COP, to raise global awareness on migratory species and the Convention specifically. To this end a COP communication strategy and plan has been developed by the Unit, which looks at generating unprecedented media and social media coverage around the COP and an active mobilization of the wider CMS community. Several communication products and activities are being planned for the COP, including, but not limited to, a series of press releases and media events, new display banners, a dedicated website newsroom, several audio-visual products (trailer and simple show film) and a special COP publications modelled after an In-Flight Magazine.

Challenges

- Ensuring that mutually agreed implementation arrangements are in place and are being followed for the Joint CMS –AEWA Communication and Information Management Unit;
- Securing the voluntary funding to be able to 1) organize World Migratory Bird Day each year, 2) carry out a professional branding project for the CMS Family and 3) develop a Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) Programme for the CMS Family.

- Securing the funding required to ensure the basic technical maintenance and further development of the CMS Family Website and other online tools being managed by the IMCA Team.

Next Steps

- Continue to improve the management and operation of the joint Communications Unit.
- Continue work on development and implementation of the Communication Strategies.
- Continue to further develop and improve the CMS Family Website and other online tools such as the Online National Reporting System (improve usability).
- Secure voluntary funding to conduct the World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) campaign in the coming years, to carry out a professional branding project for the CMS Family and to develop a Communication, Education and Public Awareness Programme.

VI CAPACITY-BUILDING

General Activities

203. In 2015-2017, the activities of the Capacity-Building Unit were organized along two interconnected lines: first, the coordination of capacity building workshops, both for Parties and non-Parties; and second, the work on the recruitment on new Parties. Two cross-cutting issues were also given ongoing attention: working with the Parties to encourage them to integrate migratory species into the NBSAPs, and promoting the CMS training tools, in particular the CMS Family Manual.

- ***Promoting the inclusion of migratory species into NBSAPs and action plans***

Striving to create synergies and strengthen the cooperation between CMS and other organizations and instruments, the Capacity Building Unit has regularly engaged with the Parties to promote the integration of migratory species into the NBSAP. The strategies and action plans are increasingly being regarded as not only important for the overall national biodiversity and sustainability but also for the integration of conservation of migratory species. Additionally, NBSAPs address direct threats, such as climate change, pollution, illegal killing and invasive species, which can often have a more pronounced effect on migratory species, and thus support national implementation of CMS obligations. Therefore, one of the priorities for the Secretariat was to contribute to, and, where appropriate, participate in the NBSAP process. At the same time, during the capacity-building workshops the participants were called upon to do the same and were informed about the CMS Guidelines on how to integrate migratory species into NBSAPs (UNEP/CMS/Conf.10.27).

In total, 58 Parties to the CMS have revised their NBSAPs to include migratory species during the period of 2015-2017. Three more Parties have submitted new NBSAPs which included migratory species.

- ***Promoting the CMS Family Manual***

Another cross-cutting activity consisted of further promoting the CMS Family Manual, a comprehensive tool developed to guide the National Focal Points in implementing the CMS Family instruments. The Manual has been introduced and assessed in workshops and yielded good results. Its structure and contents have also served as a template for the agenda of workshops for prospective Parties. Currently it is available in English, French, Spanish, Russian and Portuguese, with Portuguese being the latest edition kindly provided by the Government of Brazil and distributed among the Portuguese-speaking countries. In order to make it even more accessible, translation into Arabic should be considered.

Activity 1: Recruitment of new Parties

204. CMS is still continuously growing. In the last triennium, the Secretariat welcomed four new Members to the Convention, namely Afghanistan, Brazil, Iraq and the United Arab Emirates. CMS has thus reached a membership of 124 Parties. Moreover, several other countries have started the accession process and will join the Convention in the near future. However, the

Party map of CMS is unbalanced: while regions such as Europe, Africa and South America are well represented, large gaps can still be found in North and Central America, the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific. Filling these gaps will provide a more even representation of conservation interests and cover a wider protective corridor of migration routes.

- **Workshops**

For this purpose, CMS has organized recruitment workshops for Latin America, South-East Asia and the Pacific under the Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) project as well as one for the Caribbean as part of the ACP MEAs Phase II in the last triennium both sponsored by the EU. These events, detailed below, were a good opportunity to highlight the many benefits CMS brings to conservation, raising the profile of CMS on the global stage. In addition, conducting such face-to-face meetings allowed to collect information on country-specific obstacles and challenges together with up-to-date knowledge on the status of the accession process for each participating non-Party. Regular and directed follow-up with dedicated national contact points is key to the success of this operation and needs to be maintained in the future.

- **Missions**

Aside from the workshops organized by the CMS Secretariat, several missions related to the accession process have been carried out by the members of the Capacity-Building team. Those included, among others:

- the mission to the ASEAN Conference on Biodiversity 2016 that took place in Bangkok from 15 to 19 February 2016;
- the mission to the 4th session of the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES-4) that took place in Kuala Lumpur from 22 to 28 February 2016;
- the mission to the South-South Experience Sharing workshop on the topic “Dealing with Mainstreaming and Synergies among biodiversity-related MEAs” that took place in Nairobi from 15 to 17 March 2016;
- the mission to the 26th Meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on Nature Conservation and Biodiversity that took place from 24 to 27 May 2016, in Hanoi;
- the mission to the 5th ASEAN Heritage Parks Conference that took place in Nay Pyi Taw from 24 to 27 October 2016.

205. Those missions offered a possibility of establishing contacts and of discussing the issue of accession with the representatives of non-Parties. At any opportunity during staff missions, a Benefits Document package containing the relevant documents was distributed.

- **Updating the Benefits Document**

The Benefits Document is provided to every prospective Party in order to guide the decision-makers before and during the accession process. Tailored for each country, it presents the benefits and costs of CMS and its instruments and offers information on the Convention itself. The Benefits Document has been completely restructured in 2017 in order to offer a clear cost-benefit analysis of the CMS membership. The overly detailed document was extensively revised and updated in favour of a more functional and engaging version destined for different target groups from the high-level decision-makers to technical advisory institutions. In future, it will be distributed in a package, that also contains a document focusing on the accession process (Accession Guidelines) and an updated version of the CMS Family Guide.

Activity 2: Regional Workshops

206. Besides providing information and skill transfer, regular workshops have proven to be an effective way of monitoring progress and weaknesses in the regions that require the most assistance. A series of such workshops could be organized in 2015-2017 both for Parties, aiming to build regional capacity, and for non-Parties with the aim to boost accession. The reports from the series of workshops provided feedback on what is needed and what can be offered in return, hence refining the capacity-building strategy.

- **Workshops for Non-Parties**

207. Three regional capacity-building workshops were held to promote the Convention in regions where CMS was underrepresented. The financial support for those workshops came from the ACP MEA Phase II Project funded by the EU, which places an emphasis on Africa, the Pacific and the Caribbean as well as on synergies among MEAs.

The first regional Capacity-Building Workshop for Non-Parties of South and South-East Asia – CMS as a Tool for Conservation of Biodiversity was held in Manila from 27 to 29 October 2015. The region of South and South-East Asia has relatively few CMS Parties, which makes it hard to implement the Convention effectively, especially when it comes to regional issues. The Philippines, the next host of the COP, is a long-standing CMS Party and offered to host this workshop. Joining with the CMS Secretariat, UN Environment and the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), the Philippines informed Non-Parties about the Convention and ultimately encouraged countries to join.

208. *The CMS Capacity-Building Workshop for Non-Member States of Latin America to accede to the Convention* was the second of this kind. The CMS Secretariat, together with the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC) of UN Environment, organized for the first time a training workshop for Spanish-speaking Latin American Non-Parties, in Panama City from 22 to 24 September 2015. The workshop was an opportunity to strengthen the presence of the CMS and support the ratification process in this region. It also provided an opportunity to present to the National Focal Points several training tools produced by the CMS Secretariat, such as the CMS Family Manual or the CMS Family Guide.

209. And thirdly, the CMS Secretariat and the Caribbean Community Secretariat (CARICOM) organized *the First Regional Capacity-Building Workshop for CMS Non-Parties of the Caribbean Region*, which took place from 31 August to 2 September 2016 in Bridgetown, Barbados.

- **Pre-COP Regional Workshops**

210. Continuing the practice initiated in preparation for the COP10 and COP11, several regional workshops will be conducted with the aim of preparing the delegates for the upcoming COP12. Regions that were previously not strongly represented at negotiation meetings were fortified by thoroughly preparing them for COP12 and encouraging regional alliances. This has proved in the past to have a significantly positive effect on active COP participation by the representatives of those regions.

211. The GPGC project is supporting this capacity-building activity for the regions of Africa, Latin America and Asia, while funds for the Oceania Regional Workshop is coming from the ACP Phase II project. In total, four regional workshops – for Latin America and the Caribbean (La Paz, 18-20 July 2017), for Africa (Addis Ababa 9-11 August 2017), for Asia (Bonn, Germany, 15-17 August 2017) and for Oceania (Brisbane, Australia, 28 to 30 August 2017) – will be organized in preparation for COP12. It will give the participants the chance to engage in regional consultation and to develop common positions on some of the issues that are of priority interest to them, as well as enhance the transboundary capacity of the regions.

Challenges

- Although funds for the implementation of the capacity-building activities have been secured for this triennium through the EU (ACP Phase II and GPGC), the limited human resources available at the Secretariat affected the development of these activities.
- In 2016, the previous head of the Capacity-Building Unit left his position at CMS, for which an interim P2 officer was recruited on a temporary basis.

Next Steps

- To seek opportunities and ways to increase the human resources needed to implement the above-mentioned activities, in particular the recruitment of new Parties, for example, through the recruitment of a Junior Professional Officer;
- To recruit a new fixed-term Capacity-Building Officer;
- To refine the procedure of identifying capacity-building needs of the countries with respect to species conservation;
- To continue promoting the integration of migratory species in NBSAPs;
- To ensure continuous monitoring of the implementation processes, especially in the aftermath of COP12; and
- To strengthen the cooperation with regional partners, including CARICOM, SPREP and ACB, in order to overcome the limited human resources for recruitment of new Parties, as well as to facilitate access to information in regions with poor CMS presence.

VII. SERVICING OF GOVERNING BODIES AND OTHER MEETINGS

212. During the second half of 2013 the Conference Service Team (CST) was established. By pooling the secretaries that used to work at that time for the Agreement Officer, the Scientific Advisor and the Inter-Agency Liaison Officer a new Team was created. This reorganization has led to a change in how the Secretariat manages its work in respect to making the necessary arrangements for meetings, a core task of the Secretariat. Besides being part of the CST, each member is also focal point for one of the Species Teams or the Scientific Advisor. In that capacity, they act as Secretary to that Team. The current team is very small and consists of one full-time Conference Service Assistant, one full time and three part-time Team Assistants. The CST works very closely with the Administrative and Fund Management Unit e.g. in respect to contracting out some services and travel arrangements for funded delegates. Ideally a Conference Service Officer should head this Team but this post does not exist currently and for the time being, the Deputy Executive Secretary is Acting Head. With the limited human resources within the CST, good planning and organization are essential to ensure that the Team can deliver the services that are expected.

Activity 1: The 12th Meeting of Conference of Parties

213. Early 2015 contact was made with, the Government of the Philippines, the Host of COP12. The Secretariat has been in regularly contact with the Host and Members of the Committee responsible for organizing COP12. Two official visits to Manila of the Secretariat have taken place in October 2015 and February 2017. During these visits the Secretariat met with the Authorities, attended meetings of the Committees established by the government to organized COP12, paid visits to third parties to raise awareness about COP12 and visited the proposed Conference Centre.

Activity 2: The Standing Committee

214. Since COP11 the Executive Secretary has had regular contact with the Chair of the StC to keep him abreast of important developments. As usual all Staff have been involved to varying degrees in drafting of the substantive documents for StC44 and StC45. The Conference Service Team has taken care of the logistical arrangements for both meetings and of document production.

Activity 3: Scientific Council

215. At regular intervals, the Scientific Advisor, as well as the Executive Secretary, have been in contact with the Chair of the Scientific Council. A meeting of the new Scientific Council Sessional Committee took place in April 2016 and is scheduled for July 2017.

Activity 4: Servicing and organizing other CMS meeting

216. The CST has been taken care of servicing and organizing other CMS meetings. These meetings, mostly Meetings of Signatories to MOUs and/ or workshops have been reported on

earlier in this document under the Team that is responsible for the substance of these meetings.

New activity: CMS Family Retreat

217. To increase the cooperation within the CMS Secretariat as well as among the different entities of the CMS Family, a retreat took place from 23-25 June 2015 in the neighbourhood of Bonn. This retreat was attended by all staff of AEWA, EUROBATS and CMS (including the CMS Abu Dhabi Office) and the Executive Secretaries of ACAP and the Agreement on the Conservation of Seals in the Wadden Sea, which is handled by the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat. During this retreat amongst other things the colleagues dealing with avian or aquatic species reviewed and discussed the possibilities of increasing cooperation amongst themselves and to increase exchange of information. Furthermore, some concrete proposals were made to improve planning processes and the organization of work

Challenges

- The Secretariat is charged with the organization of several meetings of governing bodies, Meetings of Signatories to MOUs, workshops, etc. It is a challenge for the small CST to provide all services that are expected from it.

Next Steps

- To explore opportunities and ways to increase the human capacity of the CST
- To further improve the planning process and organization of work for meetings and events.

...Additional activities from COP Resolutions and decisions

GREEN corresponds to **80% to 100%** achievement of results. Implementation is on track and aligns with the plan

YELLOW corresponds to **50% to 79%** achievement of results. Minor deviation(s) to the plan are identified and corrective measures are taken. Corrective measures will be detailed in the report

RED corresponds to **0% to 49%** achievement of results. Implementation is not on track and deviates a lot from the plan. Corrective measures are taken and detailed in the report

I. EXECUTIVE DIRECTION AND MANAGEMENT

Activities	Priority ranking	2015 - 2017					Status	Accomplishments	Notes
		Total estimate ¹³	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
				Needed ¹⁴	Obtained	Source			
Providing overall management of the Secretariat, including regular Management meetings	Core							Improved planning and organization of work	Further improvements will remain a priority for the Management for the years to come.
Supervising the administrative and financial management of the Secretariat	Core							Move from IMIS to Umoja	Implementation of/ familiarization with the new Administrative system 'Umoja' has taken up a lot of Staff time and has caused delays in outstanding payments. However, meanwhile Staff have become familiar with the new system and outstanding payments are under control.
Representing CMS and/or CMS Family; raising awareness, visibility, etc.	Core							CMS has been represented at several external as well internal (UN/ UNEP) meetings as external meetings.	
Independent analysis of synergies in the CMS family	Core	50,000	50,000					Based on the Report (UNEP/CMS/StC44/15.1, the StC took a decision as laid down in Annex 2 to Report of the StC 44UNEP/CMS/StC45/Doc.4. 1	
Res. 11.6 Review of Decisions · Review of Resolutions and Recommendations and development of proposal on which ones should be repealed	High							After approval from the StC45, 49 documents have been prepared for COP12, repealing in part or in full, consolidating, or retaining resolutions (see COP Agenda item 21).	
Res. 11.7 Process to Review Implementation · Establish and support a dedicated intersessional Working Group to explore possibilities for strengthening implementation of the Convention through the development of a review process	High				50,000	Switzerland		Terms of Reference for a Working Group (WG) were submitted to and approved by the StC44th. WG is being established. First meeting of the WG took place on 19-20 September 2016, Bonn Germany	A final proposal for a Review Process for the Convention is submitted to COP 12 for adoption (see Agenda item 22)
Total		50,000	50,000		50,000				

¹³ It should be noted that based on the best available information the Secretariat has estimated the costs when the POW 2015-17 was drafted. At the time of implementing one of the activities the actual costs might be higher, lower or similar to the estimated costs.

¹⁴ No additional funds are needed if this is not indicated in this column.

II. STRATEGIC PLAN

Activities	Priority ranking	2015 - 2017					Status	Accomplishments	Notes
		Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
				Needed	Obtained	Source			
Strategic Plan Working Group	High	60,000	30,000		50,000	Germany		SPWG established; 1 meeting of SPWG convened in 2015 and one meeting in 2016	SPWG meetings held back-to-back to StC44 and StC45
Further development of the Strategic Plan (Indicators, Companion Volume)	High	50,000			covered by contribution above	covered by contribution above		Draft indicators for the SPMS developed with support of a consultant in the form of indicator factsheets. Final draft of the indicators submitted to COP12 for consideration and adoption. Companion volume developed by the Secretariat under the guidance of the SPWG in the form of an online tool to be regularly updated. Version submitted to COP12 for consideration and approval.	
Consider amendments to the format for National Reports in respect of assessing implementation of the Strategic Plan and indicators	High	10,000			covered by contribution above	covered by contribution above		A first proposal for revision submitted to StC45 for consideration. A new proposal taking into account the final outcome of the SPWG on SPMS indicators to be submitted to COP12 for consideration.	
Total		120,000	30,000		50,000				

59

Activities	Priority ranking	2015 -2017					Status	Accomplishments	Notes
		Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
				Needed	Obtained	Source			
Res.11.20 - Conservation of Sharks and Rays · Sharks and Rays (Identify the needs of training and capacity development) · Sharks and Rays (Build capacity to improve the implementation of these species)	High High	250,000 100,000	 	250,000 100,000	 	 	 	Shark ID guide developed for NW Indian Ocean. Capacity Building Workshop on the reporting of sharks and rays caught in IOTC fisheries cooperatively organized with the IOTC Secretariat in Oman. IUCN Red List Assessment workshop for sharks and rays the Arabian Seas and adjacent waters region supported.	
Res. 11.22 - Live Captures of Cetaceans from the Wild for Commercial Purposes · Review of status of legislation	High	15,000		0	5,000	Monaco	 ongoing	Review and guidelines prepared for consideration by Parties at COP12 (see COP12/Doc.24.2.4 and COP12/Inf.24).	
Res. 11.23 - Conservation Implications of Cetaceans Culture · Supporting the Expert Group · Development of a publication on findings of the Expert Group · Meeting of the Expert Group	Medium Medium	10,000 40,000		10,000 10,000	 30,000	 Appennino Tosco-Emiliano National Park	 	Expert group established. TOR and workplan developed. Report and draft decisions prepared for consideration by Parties at COP12 (see COP12/Doc.24.4.3 and COP12/Inf.18). Cross-taxa workshop planned for early 2018	

Activities	Priority ranking	2015 -2017					Status	Accomplishments	Notes
		Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
				Needed	Obtained	Source			
Res. 10.24 - Further steps to abate underwater noise pollution for the protection of cetaceans and other migratory species · Development of guidelines on EIA	High	20,000			20,500	Monaco	<div></div> <div>Guidelines developed after extensive consultations with CMS, ASCOBANS and ACCOBAMS Parties and stakeholders. Presented for consideration by Parties at COP12 (see COP12/Doc.24.2.2 and COP12/Inf.11)</div> <div>CMS has joined Joint Noise Working Group with ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS.</div>		
Res. 11.29 - Sustainable Boat-based Marine Wildlife Watching · Review of existing guidelines and development of guidelines on different taxa	High	12,000			12,000	Monaco	<div></div> <div></div>		
Res. 11.30 - Management of Marine debris · Translation of existing debris leaflet into further languages · Collaboration with regional and global instruments and possible creation of a multilateral working group · Developing advice for Parties	High Medium	12,500 10,000		10,000	12,500	Norway	<div></div> <div>In addition to the English version, French, Spanish and German will be available in time for COP12</div> <div>Discussion held with UNEP on Marine Litter partnership.</div> <div>Collaboration with UNEP on Marine Litter MOOC and implementation of UNEA2 resolution.</div> <div>Draft resolution presented for consideration by Parties at COP12 (see COP12/Doc.24.4.1).</div>		
Polar Bears (listed on App II at COP 11) · Symposium on Polar Bears and Climate change	Medium	60,000			35,000	Norway	<div></div> <div>Consultations ongoing with experts in Range States regarding a proposed symposium. Funds received from Norwegian Govt to host workshop.</div>		

Activities	Priority ranking	2015 -2017					Status	Accomplishments	Notes
		Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
				Needed	Obtained	Source			
European Eels (listed on App II at COP11) · Scientific Symposium on the status and conservation needs of Eels, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders e.g. Sargasso Sea Commission	Medium	70,000			10,000	Monaco		First Range State Workshop on the European Eel held in October 2016, with funding from Monaco and Sea Sargasso Commission.	Concerted Action on the species, proposed for adoption by COP12, (see COP12/Doc.26.2.1)
The Atlantic Turtle MOU · Revitalisation of the MOU by organizing a brainstorming meeting · Coordination (By UNV together with Abidjan Convention) · Supporting implementation · Organizing Third Meeting of Signatories	High High High High	45,000 10,000 90,000 50,000		45,000 10,000 90,000 50,000				Developing cooperation with Abidjan Convention	
The Western African Aquatic Mammal MOU · Revitalization of the MOU by organizing a brainstorming meeting · Supporting implementation · Organizing First Meeting of Signatories	High High High	35,000 90,000 50,000		35,000 90,000 50,000					Concerted Action for Atlantic Humpback Dolphins proposed for adoption by COP12, (see COP12/Doc.26.2.3)
The Pacific Islands Cetaceans MOU · Outsourcing of the technical coordination · Development of advisory Committee workspace · Supporting implementation · Organizing Fourth Meeting of Signatories	High High Medium High	35,000 2,800 100,000 50,000		35,000 100,000	2,800	New Zealand			Scheduled for 2018

Activities	Priority ranking	2015 -2017					Status	Accomplishments	Notes
		Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
				Needed	Obtained	Source			
The Mediterranean Monk Seal MOU · Organizing meeting to revise the Action Plan	Low								Scheduled for 2018
The Sharks MoU · Providing in kind support from the CMS Secretariat · Organizing the 2 nd Meeting of Signatories (costs of the meeting to be covered by MOU Trust Fund)	High High					Sharks MOU Trust Fund Sharks MOU Trust Fund		AC1, MOS2 and a meeting of the Intersessional Working Group organized and held in San José, Costa Rica in February 2016. 1 st Workshop of the Conservation Working Group (CWG1) organized and held in the UK in 2016.	The CWG was established by MOS2 in 2016.
The Pacific Loggerhead Turtle Action Plan Initiating and stimulating the implementation of the Action Plan.	Medium	100,000			60,000	Australia		Focal points established in most Range States, discussions ongoing with Inter-American Turtle Convention and SPREP. First project being identified in Latin America.	
Total		1,328,300	0	935,000	193,800				

III.2 IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT – AVIAN SPECIES TEAM

Activities	Priority ranking	2015 - 2017					Status	Accomplishments	Notes
		Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
				Needed	Obtained	Source			
Implementation of Resolutions									
Res. 11.14 - The Programme of Work for Migratory Birds and Flyways · Coordination of and organization -funds permitting- of a meeting on Americas Flyways	High	56,500		56,500				Brazil has offered in kind support to host the workshop but funds are still needed to cover the costs of sponsored participants.	The meeting was postponed to 2018. The Secretariat will continue to liaise with Brazil for organizing the meeting.
Development of a Multi-species Action Plan to Conserve African-Eurasian Vultures (Vulture MSAP) ·	High	450.000			208.500	Switzerland, Sarjah (UAE) and Spain. BirdLife International incl. Spanish and UK Partners, Vulture Conservation Foundation		Hosted five workshops (India, Senegal, Spain and two in UAE. Draft MSAP submitted to COP12 for adoption.	Activites underwritten by core funding of the Coordination Unit of the Raptors MOU.
Res. 11.15 - Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds · Coordination of the WG and organization -funds permitting- of a meeting of the WG to identify priorities within the Action Plan	High	170,000		156,000	14,000	Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MOU, Regional Government of Castilla-La Mancha		2 nd Meeting of the WG held 19-21 February 2017; Programme of Work 2017-2020 for the WG developed	A plan to implement the guidelines in the Southern African region was published, based on the outcomes of a workshop on 24 August 2015, back to back with the AEWA pre-MOP and sponsored by the EC. Resources for a Coordinator of the WG could not be obtained
Res. 11.16 - Preventing Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds · Coordination and meetings of the Mediterranean Task Force	High	450,000		0	450,000	EC		Task-force set up, First meeting in 2016. Second meeting in 2017. Programme of Work 2016-2020 adopted at 1 st meeting and Scorecard to assess and benchmark the national progress to be adopted at its 2 nd meeting. Close cooperation with Bern Convention	Activities cover 6 years

Activities	Priority ranking	2015 - 2017					Status	Accomplishments	Notes
		Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
				Needed	Obtained	Source			
Res. 11.17 - Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region · Coordination of the WG and organization -funds permitting- of a meeting of the WG back-to-back with sub-regional workshop to identify priorities within the Action Plan	High	280,000		200,000 (including 50,000 for coordinati on)	80,000	Switzerland	<div><div></div><div></div></div>	A meeting of the landbirds working group was held in November 2015 and was focussing on land us in Africa. At the end of this meeting the d Abuja Declaration was adopted.	
The Aquatic Warbler MoU · Organizing the 3 rd Meeting of Signatories. · Supporting implementation. · Outsourcing of the technical coordination.	Medium Medium High	50,000 100,000 20,000		50,000 100,000 10,000			<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>		 The 3 rd Meeting of Signatories took place the 20-22 May 2015 in Lithuania. Costs were covered by an EU LIFE project on Baltic Aquatic Warbler. A contract outsourcing the coordination of the MOU was signed in June 2015
The Great Bustard MoU · Organizing the 4 th Meeting of Signatories.	Medium	50,000		50,000			<div><div></div><div></div></div>		 The meeting is planned for March 2018 and will be hosted by Germany
The Ruddy-headed Goose MoU	Low						<div><div></div><div></div></div>		 The MOU is coordinated by Chile and Argentina
The Slender-billed Curlew MoU	Low						<div><div></div><div></div></div>		 This MOU is dormant given that no birds have been observed in the last years

Activities	Priority ranking	2015 - 2017					Status	Accomplishments	Notes
		Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
				Needed	Obtained	Source			
The Siberian Crane MoU									
· Participate in conservation planning workshop for eastern flyway	High							Workshop completed	The workshop took place 1-8 June in China. Travel costs of CMS Secretariat were covered by the International Crane Foundation
· Organizing the 8th Meeting of Signatories.	Medium	50,000		50,000					There are plans to organize the next MOS in China, funds permitting
· Supporting implementation.	Medium	100,000		100,000					
· Outsourcing of the technical coordination	High	20,000		20,000					Funds are needed to outsource coordination to the International Crane Foundation
The Andean Flamingos MoU									
· Organizing Meeting of Signatories	High	10,000				Meeting sponsored by the EU and Perú		Meeting completed	The meeting took place in April 2016, hosted by Peru in the city of Cusco
· Supporting implementation	High	100,000		100,000					
The South American Grassland Birds MoU									
· Organizing Meeting of Signatories	High	50,000		50,000					
· Supporting implementation.	High	100,000		100,000					
Baer's Pochard Action Plan									
· Action Plan submitted to COP12 for adoption	Medium								Action Plan has been developed by WWT and meanwhile adopted by EAAFP.
Far Eastern Curlew Action Plan									
· Action Plan submitted to COP12 for adoption	Medium			0	15,000	Australia			The Action Plan has been developed by Australia and meanwhile adopted by EAAFP

Activities	Priority ranking	2015 - 2017					Status	Accomplishments	Notes
		Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
				Needed	Obtained	Source			
Yellow breasted Bunting · Development of an Action Plan	Medium			0			<div><div></div><div></div></div>		An action planning workshop took place in China in November 2016,funded by BirdLife International
Asian Great Bustard · Scientific Conference for development of a Concerted Action	Low	40,000		40,000			<div><div></div><div></div></div>		The Conference took place in Mongolia in May 2017, funded by the Trust for Mutual Understanding
Total		2,096,500	0	1,092,500	777,500				

III.3 IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT TEAM – TERRESTRIAL SPECIES TEAM

Activities	Priority ranking	2015 - 2017					Status	Accomplishment	Notes
		Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
				Needed	Obtained	Source			
Implementation of Resolutions									
Res. 11.13 'Concerted and Cooperative Action' African Wild Dog (Res. 11.13, Appendix II) · Strengthen the implementation of IUCN Regional Strategies and National Action Plans	Medium						<div></div>		Conservation measures derived from the IUCN Strategies are being proposed for implementation within a Joint CMS-CITES African Carnivores Initiative submitted to CMS COP12 and CITES AC29.
Cheetah (Res. 11.13, Appendix I) · Strengthen the implementation of IUCN Regional Strategies and National Action Plans · Conduct Cheetah workshop in Iran and develop a regional programme for conservation and restoration of cheetah (CAMI Work Programme 2.3, Res.11.24)	Medium						<div></div> <div></div>		Conservation measures derived from the IUCN Strategies are being proposed for implementation within a Joint CMS-CITES African Carnivores Initiative submitted to CMS COP12 and CITES AC29.
African Savannah and Forest Elephant (Res. 11.13, Appendix II) · Strengthen mapping and conservation of transboundary corridors · Facilitate strengthened transboundary monitoring (e.g. SMART)	Medium						<div></div>		To be implemented when funding is available To be implemented when funding is available

Activities	Priority Ranking	2015 - 2017					Status	Accomplishment	Notes
		Total Estimate	Core available Funding	Voluntary Contributions					
				Needed	Obtained	Source			
White-eared Kob (Res. 11.13, Appendix II) · Transboundary workshop to strengthen protected area network based on satellite-collar data from ongoing project	Medium	10,700						Mapping of multi-species ecological corridor across Ethiopia and South Sudan.	The workshop is part of a larger satellite-collaring project. Workshop not held, due to security situation. Work on White-eared Kob postponed indefinitely
African bats (Res. 11.13, Appendix II) · Gaps and needs assessment to guide targeted action within CMS framework	Medium	30,000		30,000		-			To be implemented when funding is available
Res. 11.24 The Central Asian Mammals Initiative · Associate Programme Officer for CAMI (full-time) · CAMI Work Programme implementation (Res.11.24, Table 1), where high priority activities include:	High	96,102	45,102	51,000	35,000	- Switzerland		Two Interim consultants since February 2015 until November 2016; recruitment for CAMI Officer completed by March 2017. Stimulate CAMI POW implementation during CAMI expert Workshop in August 2016	

Activities	Priority Ranking	2015 - 2017					Status	Accomplishment	Notes
		Total Estimate	Core available Funding	Voluntary Contributions					
				Needed	Obtained	Source			
Section 1.3 on Infrastructure: e.g. strengthen knowledge and dissemination on species/landscape mapping, develop outreach materials on barriers to migration, establishment of multi-agency taskforces for large infrastructure projects, organize expert working group meetings, organize technical infrastructure workshops	High				30,000 30,000	Switzerland Germany (BMUB, BfN)		A workshop to develop an atlas of Range-wide Mapping and Priority Setting of ten CAMI Species (Distribution and Movement Corridors) and Linear Infrastructure Threats across Central Asia co-organized by CMS and BfN took place in April/ May 2017. The atlas will be ready presented at a side event at COP12.	25-29 th August, UB, Mongolia
· Workshop to promote the Guidelines for Addressing the Impact of Linear Infrastructure on Large Migratory Mammals in Central Asia	High	30,000			30,000	Germany (BMUB BfN)		The Guidelines for Addressing the Impact of Linear Infrastructure on Large Migratory Mammals in Central Asia were produced and funds received for their Russian translation from Germany in 2016. One workshop focusing on Mongolia was conducted in August 2015 in Ulaanbataar, Mongolia in cooperation with BfN and the Mongolian Government on priority actions lessons learnt, priority actions lessons learnt, Ulaanbataar Action Plan including Trans-Mongolian railway modifications (see agenda)	
· Section 1.4. on good governance of natural resource management/ policy and legislation: e.g. Facilitate expert working group for scaling up successful national policies to regional level, technical workshops on border fence sectors, agriculture, infrastructure; best practice guidelines (e.g. monitoring)	Medium	85,000		85,000					

Activities	Priority Ranking	2015 - 2017					Status	Accomplishment	Notes
		Total Estimate	Core available Funding	Voluntary Contributions					
				Needed	Obtained	Source			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Section 1.5 on Human needs/community engagement in conservation: e.g. Promotion of sustainable livelihood schemes, develop materials for educators and develop activities to communicate conservation message, strengthen ecotourism	Medium	20,000		20,000					Cost estimates are minimum estimates for triennium
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Section 1.6 on Scientific Knowledge: e.g. Conduct gap analysis to understand species-specific knowledge gaps	Medium	25,000		25,000				Assessment of Gaps and Needs in Migratory Mammal Conservation in Central Asia in 2014. No further work done on this	Cost estimates are minimum estimates for triennium
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Section 1.7 on transboundary cooperation: e.g. Build on existing processes and structures, promote benefits of cooperation	High	5,000		5,000				Attending NABU-organized Meeting with GSLEP in Berlin July 2016 to promote more active cooperation and to address improving trans-boundary cooperation	Cost estimates are minimum estimates for triennium
International Single Species Action Plan for the conservation of Argali									
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Kick-start coordination and implementation of the Single Species Action Plan on the Conservation of Argali	High	40,000		40,000				No action lack of funds	
Res. 11.32 Conservation and Management of the African Lion, <i>Panthera leo</i>	High		-					A meeting was organised jointly with the Secretariat of CITES in Entebbe, Uganda in May 2016 at which the IUCN Strategies were reviewed and the Entebbe Communiqué adopted. Based on the meeting, CITES COP17 adopted a suite of decisions on the conservation and management of lion, which are now being presented to CMS COP12. A proposal to list <i>Panthera leo</i> on Appendix II of CMS has been submitted by the Govts. of Chad, Niger and Togo to COP12.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Assessing the population and conservation status of Lions within Range States through a questionnaire for presentation at StC44			-		58,000	Germany, Netherlands and UK			

Activities	Priority Ranking	2015 - 2017					Status	Accomplishment	Notes
		Total Estimate	Core available Funding	Voluntary Contributions					
				Needed	Obtained	Source			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Organizing a meeting of range states to assess and evaluate the implementation of the Conservation Strategy for the Lion in Eastern and Southern Africa (2006) and the Conservation Strategy for the Lion in West and Central Africa (2006), and develop regional conservation action plans		120,000	-	120,000					Fully implemented
The Saiga MOU <ul style="list-style-type: none">Finalization of the National Report Format and revision and update of the Medium-Term International Work Programme 2010-2015Outsourcing of the technical coordinationSupporting implementation (e.g. Capacity-building for wildlife health authorities, modification of border fence, equipment for protected areas)Organizing Third Meeting of Signatories (26-29 October 2015, Tashkent)	High	18,153			18,153	Germany		Accomplished and finalized at saiga MOS 3	To be implemented when funding is available
	High	10,000			15,000	Germany		Outsourcing MOU coordination was done successfully for 2015 and beginning of 2016. The funds were used up by early 2016, due to the cost of the Saiga Resource Centre and related activities.	
	High	170,000		170,000	15,000	Germany		Protocol for taking samples after mass die off events have been finalized and translated by SCA in 2016. Border fence Kazakhstan-Uzbekistan modified successfully. No other new activities since 2015	
	High	35,000			38,000	UNEP ROE and Germany		Accomplished in 2015	
The Bukhara Deer MOU <ul style="list-style-type: none">Supporting implementation and outsourcing technical implementation of the MOUOrganizing technical workshop and 2nd Meeting of Signatories	Medium	100,000		100,000					Meeting not held due to lack of resources
	Medium	55,000		55,000					
The Western African Elephant MOU	High			20,000					An internal assessment was made on the added value of the MOU and it was decided that support to the implementation of the African Elephant Action Plan would be a way to implement CMS with regard

Activities	Priority Ranking	2015 - 2017					Status	Accomplishment	Notes
		Total Estimate	Core available Funding	Voluntary Contributions					
				Needed	Obtained	Source			
Updating the medium- term International Work Programme									to African elephants than renegotiating a work programme for Western
· Supporting implementation (e.g. Follow-up workshop in Burkina Faso on community-based anti-poaching) · Organizing Third Meeting of Signatories	High	100,000		100,000					African elephants. A proposal has been submitted to that effect by the Governments of Burkina Faso, Ghana, Kenya and South Africa.
	High	55,000		55,000					
The Huemul Deer MOU · Implemented by Argentina and Chile through a bi-national Action Plan	Low								No actions currently needed, we must keep track of the disease situation, offer help if needed in 2017
The Sahelo/Saharan Antelope Action Plan · Updating and review of the 1998/2006 Action Plan · Organizing meeting of Range States to adopt the Action Plan (2016/2017) Meeting of Addax Range States to discuss conservation priorities following rapid decline of Addax in 2016	Medium Medium High	18,590	- -		18,590	USFWS			Action Plan and Species status reports currently in Review; Range State meeting postponed until 2018 Addax meeting in discussion

Activities	Priority Ranking	2015 - 2017					Status	Accomplishment	Notes
		Total Estimate	Core available Funding	Voluntary Contributions					
				Needed	Obtained	Source			
The Gorilla Agreement · Outsourcing of the technical coordination · Supporting implementation (including GRASP-CMS project) Organizing the 3 rd Meeting of Parties back-to-back with the next GRASP Meeting (Indonesia 2016)	High High High	50,000 100,000 35,000	 26,962	50,000 100,000 	 	 GA Parties and Germany	<div></div> <div></div> <div></div>	 	MOP3 was scheduled to take place together with the 4 th GRASP Council meeting. Due to cancellation of the latter the MOP could also not take place. A proposal for close cooperation with GRASP has been prepared, which seeks to streamline work in both bodies and pool resources and expertise to lower costs for both.
Action to Conserve the African Wild Ass Work to address the conservation of the AWA. Kick-off meeting on 9 June 2016 (BMUB) Range State meeting planned in early 2017 to draft an International Species Action Plan	High	20,000			26,000	BMUB	<div></div>	Kick-off meeting held and next steps identified in June 2016 Range State meeting held in March 2017 Conservation roadmap to be presented at COP12, potentially during a side event. Resolution on Conservation of the African Wild Ass to be voted on at COP.	Range state meeting took place March 2017
Total		1,148,545	72,064	1,026,000	313,743				

III.4 SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY SERVICE

Activities	Priority ranking	2015 - 2017					Status	Accomplishment	Notes
		Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
				Needed	Obtained	Source			
Implementation of Resolutions									
Res. 11.25 – Ecological Networks · Stimulating the implementation of the Resolution on Ecological Networks particularly in Africa by programme planning in 2015 and a kick-start meeting in 2016	High	250,000							Resolution to be implemented in the context of the EU large wildlife conservation programme- See resource mobilization document.
Res. 11. 27 Renewable Energy · Coordination and operation of the Energy Task Force and organization of its first meeting · Contributing to the further development of the Guidelines	High High	120,000			180 000	Germany		Energy Task Force (ETF) established. BirdLife Int. appointed as ETF coordinator through an arrangement with the CMS Secretariat. First meeting of the Task Force held in Cape Town in December 2016. Adoption of ETF POW 2017-2018; Modus operandi of ETF; Cape Town Declaration. A second meeting scheduled to be held in Bonn on 14-15 September 2017, hosted by the CMS Secretariat. Contacts have been maintained between CMS and AEWA Secretariats and IRENA on the further development of the guidelines.	After some initial difficulties in its establishment, ETF fully operational and expanding Activity not considered a priority. Technical Working Group established within the ETF do consider development of some specific guidance and protocols.

Activities	Priority ranking	2015 - 2017					Status	Accomplishment	Notes
		Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
				Needed	Obtained	Source			
Res. 11.31 Fighting Wildlife Crime and offences within and beyond the borders · Capacity-building for rangers, customs, police, military and other relevant bodies · Strengthen collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including ICCWC and each of its partner agencies (CITES, INTERPOL, UNODC, the World Bank and the WCO), UNEP, Regional Fishery Management Organizations (RFMOs), and regional Wildlife Enforcement Networks (WENs) and Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW) Bank and the WCO), UNEP, Regional Fishery Management Organizations (RFMOs), and regional Wildlife Enforcement Networks (WENs) and Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW)		- 200,000	- -	200,000			<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>		To be implemented when funding is available
Facilitating the Work of the Scientific Council · Assisting ScC Chair in organizing workshops on Connectivity	Core	50,000			50,000	Regional Po Delta Park	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	A first workshop took place in Albarella (Venice, Italy) from 28-30 September 2015, financially supported and hosted by the Po Delta Regional Park. The Po Delta Regional Park hosted a 2 nd workshop in May 2017, which aimed at finalizing ScC input to COP12 on connectivity.	Activity led by the ScC Chair, with the Secretariat providing advice notably as regards experts' attendance, workshop programme and format of input to COP12

Activities	Priority ranking	2015 - 2017					Status	Accomplishment	Notes
		Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
				Needed	Obtained	Source			
Devise a consultative process to advise StC and COP on the composition of the Sessional Committee								Options for a consultative process for the appointment of the Sessional Committee of the ScC by COP12 and subsequent COP meetings were submitted to StC44 for consideration. Based on StC44 guidance, a proposal for a consultative process was submitted to StC45, which endorsed it. With a view to the appointment of the Sessional Committee for the period 2015-2017 by StC44, the Secretariat solicited and compiled expressions of interest to be members of the Committee from members of the ScC. On this basis, StC44 appointed the members of the Sessional Committee for the period 2015-2017.	More detail provided in documents UNEP/CMS/StC44/14 and UNEP/CMS/StC45/13.1
Develop Terms of Reference for the ScC								Draft Terms of Reference for the ScC were compiled by the Secretariat and submitted to StC44 for its consideration. StC44 provisionally approved them, with a view to their final endorsement by COP12.	More detail provided in document UNEP/CMS/StC44/14

Activities	Priority ranking	2015 - 2017					Status	Accomplishment	Notes
		Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
				Needed	Obtained	Source			
Conservation status of CMS species · Coordinating preparations of review report on the conservation status of species listed on CMS Appendices	High	200,000		175,000	10,000	Switzerland		A workshop with key partners (IUCN, WCMC, BLI, WI) to develop proposal for the ToR and format of the report was held in Cambridge in November 2016, with support from WCMC. The outcome of the workshop, in the form of a scoping paper for the establishment of a "State of the World's Migratory species" report, submitted to the 2 nd meeting of the Sessional Committee of the ScC for consideration.	
Implementation of the Small Grants Programme	High	200,000		200,000				Contracts signed between the Secretariat and the implementing agencies for projects funded under the 2014 cycle, and project Implementation monitored.	No new calls for project proposals could be made as no resources could be raised in support of the programme
Development of Atlas on Animal Migration · Starting with the African Eurasian region, migratory bird atlas taking into consideration ones already existing	High	2,000,000			1,000,000	Italy		Project concept developed and presented to the first meeting of the Sessional Committee of the ScC. Donor agreement signed with the Government of Italy. Start of the project foreseen in September 2017.	Initiative developed in consultation with the ScC. Project supported by the Government of Italy expected to be implemented over a triennium (2018-2020)
Facilitate the implementation of the Programme of Work on Climate Change and prepare progress report to COP12 · Organizing 1 st meeting of the Climate Change Working Group	High	50,000			16,000	Germany		Meeting of the CCWG convened in Bonn in February 2017. Meeting report and other documents submitted to ScC-SC2 and COP12 for consideration.	
Total		3,170,000	0	575,000	1,256,000				

IV. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND INTERAGENCY AFFAIRS

Activities	Priority ranking	2015 - 2017					Status	Accomplishments	Notes
		Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
				Needed	Obtained	Source			
Resource Mobilization									
· Developing project proposals	Core							Many proposals developed and submitted which resulted in the funding raised for the POW	Strategy for approaching Private sector is being outlined
· Identifying potential donors, liaise with them on new proposals and/ or report to them ongoing/finalized projects	Core								
· Pursue partnerships with the Private Sector incl. the development of a strategy as part of the Champion Programme	High								
· Developing a CMS Resource Assessment and Mobilization Plan	Core	50,000							
· Implementing the Migratory Species Champion Programme	Core	4,000			5,000	Finland			
Promote CMS Issues in UN System									
Participating in meetings of / with e.g.:									
· Biodiversity Liaison Group (BLG)	High							Eleventh ordinary meeting of the BLG held the 23 August 2016 in Bonn	Follow-up ongoing
· EMG and IMG Biodiversity Group	Low								
· UNEP 2015 Strategic Group and Post-2015 process of Sustainable Development Goals	Medium							Work completed and related Resolution adopted by UNEA 2	Follow-up ongoing
· UNEP MEA Management Team meetings	Medium								
· Participating in NBSAPs Forum (UNEP-, UNDP-, CBD-led) to provide information on behalf of the CMS Family	High								
· Global Programme on Oceans (GPO)	Medium							Link to NBSAP forum included on CMS Family website	
· UNEP MEA Focal Points	High								

Activities	Priority ranking	2015 - 2017					Status	Accomplishment	Notes
		Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
				Needed	Obtained	Source			
Strengthen Existing Collaboration with MEAs · Coordinating and overseeing the implementation of the Joint Work Plans with CBD, Ramsar and CITES · Strengthening the collaboration with UNESCO-WHC, UNFCC, UNCCD and IWC · Maintaining collaboration with other MEAs e.g. Bern Convention, Cartagena Convention, etc.	High Medium Low						<div></div> <div></div> <div></div>	New JWP with CBD and Ramsar completed Bern Convention member of Task Force on Illegal Killing of Birds	
Strengthen Existing Collaboration with IGOs and Civil Society · Strengthening the relationship with e.g. EU, SPREP, IUCN and Civil Society, where appropriate	Medium						<div></div>		
Engagement in New Strategic Cooperation · Continuing cooperation with IRENA, building on results of joint project. · Pursuing joint interests and activities with WWF in the context of the partnerships agreement · Exploring possible engagement of GEF, UNDP, World Bank and others in implementation of CMS.	High High Medium						<div></div> <div></div>		
CMS AMBASSADORS · Continuing to liaise with the CMS Ambassadors to expand their programme to support CMS and identifying new Ambassadors, as appropriate.	Medium	20,000		20,000			<div></div>	Ambassadors provided statements in support of the World Migratory Bird Day	Programme is being revamped

Activities	Priority ranking	2015 - 2017					Status	Accomplishment	Notes
		Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contribution					
				Needed	Obtained	Source			
Strengthen Regional Presence Implementation of CMS · African Regional Coordinator for raising awareness, building partnerships, mobilizing resources and the recruitment of new Parties to enhance visibility and general implementation of the Convention in the Africa region. · Western Hemisphere Regional Coordinator for raising awareness, building partnerships, mobilizing resources and the recruitment of new Parties to enhance visibility and general implementation of the Convention in the LAC region. · Pacific Regional Coordinator for raising awareness, building partnerships, mobilizing resources and the recruitment of new Parties to enhance visibility and general implementation of the Convention in the Pacific region.	High	202,000		202,000			Requests of funds sent to all Parties	No resources obtained while cooperation with regional institutions has been strengthened. See UNEP/CMS/COP12/Doc.23.1	
	High	202,000		202,000				same as above	same as above
	High	202,000		202,000				same as above	same as above
Total		680,000	0	626,000	5,000				

V. INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH

Activities	Priority ranking	2015 - 2017					Status	Accomplishments	Notes
		Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
				Needed	Obtained	Source			
Communication Strategy · Organizing workshops to develop and discuss the Strategy · Developing a common Communication Strategy for AEWA and CMS; a first step toward a CMS Family-wide strategy · Developing a common branding for the CMS Family	Core Core Medium	100,000 50,000 40,000		100,000 25,000 40,000		Germany (to AEWA)	<div></div> <div></div> <div></div>	Communication Strategy provided by independent Consultant	To be undertaken if and when funding is available Shared funding with AEWA Secretariat. AEWA Communication Strategy adopted at MOP6. Draft CMS Communication Strategy prepared by Consultant.. To be undertaken if and when funding is available.
Communication. Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) · Initiating the development of a common CEPA Programme for AEWA and CMS · Organizing CEPA Workshops to ensure a participatory process · Developing the CEPA Programme · Developing a CEPA Toolkit	Medium Medium Medium Medium			50,000 100,000			<div></div> <div></div>		To be undertaken if and when funding is available.
Electronic Information Tools · Maintaining and/ or developing other websites e.g. World Migratory Bird Day · Maintaining and further developing the CMS Family Website	Core Core	10,000 20,000		13,000	8,000 7,000	as part of the contributions for the WMBD campaign	<div></div> <div></div>	World Migratory Bird Day Website Developed for the 2015, 2016 and 2017 annual campaign CMS Website being actively maintained by multiple Secretariat staff. CMS Family Website WG (re-launched) to identify areas of improvement / further development	New Website built using the Drupal (open source) Content Management System Funding available to secure basic technical maintenance of CMS Family Website, but resources needed to be able to make further improvements (Development Costs)

Activities	Priority ranking	2015 - 2017					Status	Accomplishments	Notes
		Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
				Needed	Obtained	Source			
<div>· Programme Officer to maintain and further develop electronic information tools</div>	Core	96,102	96,102				<div></div>	Recruitment process for 50% P2 Post still ongoing. Consultant hired in April 2015 to fill the gap with reserves	Funding urgently needed to be able to upgrade the part-time P-2 to a full time position. This is a core position within the new Joint CMS+ AEWA Communications, Information Management and Outreach Unit.
<div>· Maintaining and further developing online Workspaces e.g. for the Scientific Council</div>	Core	20,000		20,000					<div></div>
Campaigns							<div></div>		
<div>· Organizing the campaigns e.g. World Migratory Bird Day, World Wildlife Day and support campaigns of other MEAs..</div>	High	65,000			79,925	Germany Finland Raptors MoU	<div></div>	World Migratory Bird Day 2015, 2016 and 2017 Campaigns successfully implemented	Shared Activity between CMS and AEWA Secretariats
Information Management							<div></div>		
<div>· Further developing and maintaining the Online Reporting System incl. Analytical Tool</div>	High	100,000					<div></div>	The improved (upgraded) ORS was used for reporting to CMS COP12 in 2017	UNEP-WCMC received a significant grant from the EC / ACP Project to upgrade the Online Reporting System from which CMS benefitted
<div>· Analysing and synthesizing of National Reports</div>	Core						<div></div>		
<div>· Managing in- and outgoing mail and keeping the contact database up to date</div>	Core						<div></div>		Ongoing Activity

Activities	Priority ranking	2015 - 2017					Status	Accomplishments	Notes
		Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
				Needed	Obtained	Source			
Press and Media									
· Writing of Press Releases, Op-Eds, Articles, etc. including responding to Media requests	Core							Substantial number of press releases, Op-Eds and Articles have been published.	Since the creation of the IMCA Team the number of press releases, Op-Eds, Articles and messages on Social Media has increased significantly. More could be done if funding would become available for e.g. production of professional videos. So far we have relied on in-house capacity for the production of audio-visual material.
· Furthering the use of Social Media to increase the visibility of the CMS Family	High	100,000		100,000				Substantial number of messages on Social Media published.	The in-house social media management has significantly improved between 2016 – 2017. Additional resources could allow for even more strategic expansion in this area.
· Improving the use of Multi Media	Medium	20,000		20,000				In-house production of video statements (ES)	
Publications									
· Organizing and supervising the printing of publications	Core	40,000			32,770	Germany		In-house capacity for design / desktop publishing strengthened (AEWA Staff Member of Joint Communications Team) Funding was obtained for the development of the COP12 Inflight Publication and other promotion materials	
Total		771,102	109,102	462,000	145,695				

VI. CAPACITY-BUILDING

Activities	Priority ranking	2015 - 2017					Status	Accomplishments	note
		Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
				Needed	Obtained	Source			
Capacity-Building · Stimulating the use of E-community to increase communication between National Focal Points. · Evaluating the usefulness of the existing capacity-building tools e.g. National Focal Point Manual, E-community, etc.	Core High								
Regional Meetings · Organizing and servicing preparatory meeting for COP12 in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Pacific.	High	200,000			200,000	EC (GPGC Project) and UNEP (through ACP project)		Four regional workshops in the Latin America, Asia, Africa and Pacific are organized for mid-2017	
Recruitment of Parties · Developing a Strategy to recruit new Parties. · Liaising with non-Party Range States to provide them with the necessary information to make an informed decision to join CMS and/ or one or more of its instruments. · Assisting countries to accede to CMS	Core Core Core	90,000			180,000	EC		Four regional workshops in the Caribbean, Latin America, South-East Asia and Pacific were held	
Capacity-Building Implementing the Capacity-Building Strategy 2015-2017 by identifying specific needs, Training of Trainers, developing materials and organizing capacity-building workshops in particular in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Pacific, etc.	Core	350,000		350,000					
Total		640,000		350,000	380,000				

VII. SERVICING OF GOVERNING BODIES AND OTHER CMS MEETINGS

Activities	Priority ranking	2015 - 2017					Status	Accomplishments	Notes
		Total estimate	Core available funding	Voluntary contributions					
				Needed	Obtained	Source			
The 12 th Meeting of the Conference of Parties (including hiring Conference Officer, support for funded delegates, contracting ENB and organization of High Level Segment).	Core		342,771		200,000	Germany, Norway, Switzerland, Monaco Netherlands Philippines		The Government of the Philippines which is hosting COP12 is covering costs related to the organization of the Meeting including its High-Level Events, and ENB coverage. These resources are not reflected here	
The Standing Committee including maintaining regular contact	Core	43,732	43,732						
The Scientific Council including maintaining regular contact	Core	100,816	100,816						Additional funding is not needed
Servicing and organizing (logistically) of any other CMS meeting e.g. Meeting of Signatories to MoUs, Meeting of Parties to the Gorilla Agreement, Workshops, etc.	Core								
CMS Family Retreat	Core	25,400	25,400					Improved cooperation with the CMS Family, particularly with respect to aquatic and avian species.	
Total		169,948	512,719		200,000				