

**Third Regional Seminar on the Conservation and Restoration of
Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna**

Agadir, Morocco, 14 – 16 March 2023

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FUNDING AND PARTNERSHIPS

Background

1. At its 13th meeting (COP13, Gandhinagar, 2020), the Conference of the Parties adopted Concerted Action 13.4 for Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna. The Concerted Action mandated activities and expected outcomes are as follows:

Concerted Action 13.4

(v). Activities and expected outcomes:

B. Proposed Activities

During the period 2020-2023, the following activities are proposed:

4. Strengthen partnerships with relevant international and regional organizations as well as multilateral environmental agreements; and
5. Provide technical support to the Range States for the implementation of the updated action plan.

C. Expected Outputs

4. A list of project concepts;
5. Documents demonstrating partners' commitments to the implementation of the action plan; and
6. Project proposals for the implementation of the action plan.

D. Description of Activities

Activity 4. Strengthen partnerships with relevant international and regional organizations, and multilateral environmental agreements

For the implementation of the action plan, cross-sectoral coordination and multi-stakeholder cooperation are crucial. Therefore, the Secretariat will work to strengthen partnerships with relevant organizations including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the Great Green Wall Initiative, Sahara Conservation Fund and Noé Conservation for the development and implementation of the updated action plan

Activity 5. Provide technical support to the Range States for the implementation of the updated Action Plan

As soon as an updated action plan is developed under Activity 2 and endorsed by the third regional seminar under Activity 3, the implementation activities will be initiated. The Secretariat will, working with Range States and relevant stakeholders, assist Range States in developing project proposals in line with the action plan. The list of project concepts identified under Activity 3 will help shape the project proposals, based on the needs identified by the Range States.

2. The Summary of proposed activities under the Sahelo-Saharan Concerted Action (2020-2023) places the responsibility of completing Activity 4. *Strengthen partnerships with relevant international and regional organizations, and multilateral environmental agreements* on the CMS Secretariat.
3. The Summary of proposed activities under the Sahelo-Saharan Concerted Action (2020-2023) places the responsibility of completing Activity 5. *Provide technical support to Range States for the implementation of the updated action plan* on the CMS Secretariat in cooperation with: International and regional organizations, funding agencies, academia, non-governmental organizations.

Activities to Complete Activity 4 of Concerted Action 13.4

4. The CMS Secretariat enlisted the support of the Co-Chairs of the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) Antelope Specialist Group (ASG) in May 2022 to develop the updated Action Plan.
5. In June 2022 the CMS Secretariat introduced the Co-Chairs of the IUCN SSC ASG to the CMS National Focal Points of the Concerted Action Range State Parties to CMS, and to the CITES Management and/or Scientific Authorities of the Concerted Action Range State Non-CMS Parties. The Range States were requested to provide information on past and ongoing activities on the Concerted Action species that would inform the development of the Action Plan.
6. The Co-Chairs of the IUCN SSC Antelope Specialist Group, as foremost experts in this field, engaged their vast networks within IGOs, NGOs, academia and the private sector to collect additional information that informed the development of the Action Plan.
7. The Action Plan identifies key threats to the species of the Concerted Action for Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna.
8. The CMS Secretariat invited partners including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, SaharaConservation, Noé, Marwell Wildlife, Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, Zoological Society of London, Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, African Parks, Wild Africa Conservation, Spanish National Research Council's Estación Experimental de Zonas Áridas, French Development Agency, German Agency for International Cooperation, and World Bank.

Activities to Complete Activity 5 of Concerted Action 13.4

9. Activities will commence once the Action Plan is endorsed by the Third Regional Seminar on the Conservation and Restoration of Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna.

Discussion and Analysis

10. The main threats to the Concerted Action species are direct killing, habitat degradation, overgrazing, wood collection, climate change, insecurity, and armed conflicts, all against a background of severe development pressure, as well as under-resourcing and lack of awareness.
11. Considering the cross-sectoral nature of the threats to the Concerted Action species, collaboration and partnerships are essential for the implementation of the Action Plan to achieve its intended conservation outcomes.

Recommended Actions

12. The Third Regional Seminar on the Conservation and Restoration of Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna is recommended to:
 - a) explore possibilities to collaborate on the implementation of the Action Plan with partners such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the Great Green Wall Initiative, IUCN, Sahara Conservation Fund and Noé among others;
 - b) explore opportunities to engage with donors such as the French Development Agency, German Agency for International Cooperation, and World Bank among others in funding the implementation of the Action Plan; and
 - c) use Global Environment Facility funding to implement the Action Plan where possible.