



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme



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CMS/StC28/13-E

OVERVIEW OF THE STATUS OF SMALL-SCALE PROJECTS FINANCED BY THE CMS TRUST FUND

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

Overview of Small-scale Projects

1. The tables attached to this note have been prepared to inform the Standing Committee about progress made with respect to small-scale projects funded by the Convention Trust Fund. Table I presents the status of projects currently ongoing, or which were in progress at the time of COP7 (Bonn, September 2002). The table provides *inter alia* a description of the expected outputs, the use that was made of them, and the status of each project with regard to completion of the *substantive* outputs. Table II lists other projects recommended by the Scientific Council at its 11th and 12th and for which the possibility of a financial support from the Convention under the Small Grant Programme in the year 2005 is presently considered possible though not guaranteed.

2. Since COP7, about US\$465,000¹ were obligated to a total of 17 projects². Of these, US\$211,690 concern nine³ projects approved by ScC10, and their funding draws on unspent resources allocated by COP6 to support conservation measures. Approximately US\$252,500 has been obligated to support eight⁴ projects recommended for funding by ScC11 and ScC12. Expenditure of this money has been against the amounts set by COP7 in support of conservation measures (budget line 2254).

3. StC27 approved a list of projects recommended for funding by ScC12, giving the Secretariat a general mandate to manage the project programme according to the availability of funds and following the system of priorities that had been identified, in consultation with the Chairman of the Scientific Council. Since StC27 funding has been obligated in support of three projects. The funding under the Small Grant Programme of 6 other projects is

¹ It is not possible to provide an exact figure in US dollars, as part of the funds has been obligated in Euros, and their equivalent in dollars is subject to the fluctuating exchange rate.

² These seventeen projects actually correspond to twenty-one projects recommended by the CMS Scientific Council. Six different projects singled out by the Council have been merged down to two projects with a view to enhancing co-ordination and administrative efficiency.

³ Formerly ten projects before the merging of projects mentioned in note 2.

⁴ Formerly eleven projects before the merging of projects mentioned in note 2.

considered possible though not guaranteed in 2005. The list of these projects is provided in Table II. A general principle applied by the Secretariat since August 2004 to the funding of project activities limits to a maximum of 50% the amount provided by the Convention Trust Fund in support of the implementation of individual projects, the balance having to be provided with matching funding from NGOs, Governments or other donors. Conservation projects recommended by the Council are also fully integrated in current fund-raising efforts undertaken by the Secretariat.

Action requested

The Committee is asked to note the report, and to give comments or guidance, as necessary, to the Secretariat.

General considerations on the CMS Small Grant Programme

4. The CMS Small Grant Programme has had a significant role in developing CMS initiatives for a number of taxa mainly in developing countries. Projects-oriented work is now a key operational tool of the Convention. Since 1997 the Programme has supported over 50 projects, distributing nearly US\$1.4 million. The intermediate beneficiaries as implementing agencies for CMS grants have typically been NGOs, foundations, research institutions and universities. Resources have been divided between 4 main groups of migratory species: terrestrial mammals, birds, aquatic mammals and turtles. The Programme has been in particular the main tool to support Concerted Actions for Appendix I species. Remarkable examples can be considered the ongoing initiatives for Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes, Marine Turtles in the Indian Ocean/South-East Asia and along the Atlantic Coast of Africa, small cetaceans in South-East Asia and in tropical West Africa, Siberian crane, Ruddy-headed goose and Andes flamingos, just to mention a few. The Convention's support to these initiatives helps not only the species targeted, but demonstrates the Convention's commitment to the country/region in which the project takes place. The Programme raises the Convention's profile as a practical and operationally-oriented framework in many Parties and regions.

5. The Small Grant Programme has been funded so far essentially through COP-authorized withdrawal of surpluses from the Trust Fund. This option is likely not to be available for the triennium 2006-2008. Current projections, illustrated in doc. CMS/StC28/5, indicate that there will be no significant surplus available for carry over from 2003-2005. On the other hand, the possibility of COP8 to allocate resources to the programme from Parties' compulsory contributions for the triennium 2006-2008 will depend on the decisions which will be made on the level of Parties' subscriptions. Among the four budget scenarios for 2006-2008 currently being considered, as illustrated in doc. CMS/ScC28/7, scenario 1 (no growth in contributions with respect to 2003-2005) and scenario 2 (no growth in expenditure with respect to 2003-2005) would not allow devoting Trust Fund resources to the programme. Under scenario 3 a level of funding comparable to the triennium 2003-2005 should normally be available for 2006-2008, while under scenario 4 some increase of resources could theoretically be possible. While it is not possible to anticipate at this stage the decisions of the COP regarding the 2006-2008 budget, the present uncertainties suggest the opportuneness of considering alternative and/or additional sources of funding to sustain the programme. In particular, under the already mentioned scenarios 1 and 2, it should be assumed that the programme would have to entirely rely on voluntary contributions, if to be maintained. Even

under the more favourable scenarios, voluntary contributions would represent a useful complement to Trust Fund resources, allowing a further expansion of the programme. In this perspective, it would appear logical and appropriate the establishment of a formal linkage with the fund-raising strategy currently being developed within CMS (Doc. CMS/StC28/6), while this could not be seen necessarily as the only mechanism for voluntary funding under the programme. The Strategy at its present stage of development appears to target mainly the private and corporate sectors. Voluntary support to the programme from Party governments and governmental agencies, as it has been occasionally the case in the past, will also need to be considered and integrated in the fund-raising strategy.

6. A shift in the balance of funding of the programme from COP-approved budget to voluntary funding, whether from the private or public sector, might also suggest a revision of the current mechanism for the identification of projects to be supported by the programme. Some initial considerations and suggestions are made here below. In the current practice, identification of suitable project proposals and their prioritization is made at the regular meetings of the Scientific Council, both intersessionally and preceding the COP meetings, mostly on the basis of fully developed proposals received either through members of the Council (preferred procedure) or the Secretariat. Scientific Council recommendations also take into account expected available resources. The projected need of active fund-raising to procure the financial resources for the implementation of the projects might suggest the opportuneness of some changes in this practice. The elaboration of fully developed project proposals may not be necessary in the phases of evaluation of the value of the project for the achievement of the objectives of the Convention and fund-raising for its implementation, while it might be perceived as an excessive burden in the absence of any reasonable certitude of availability of resources. Shorter project concepts, possibly tailored for the donors' audience, could be sufficient and even preferable. At the same time, the need for active fund-raising would suggest the opportuneness of raising the profile of the programme, with a higher and stronger endorsement of the proposals within the Convention, desirably at the level of Conference of the Parties. A possible mechanism would consist in the elaboration, at the level of Scientific Council, of lists of conservation projects, consistent with the priorities and targets of the Convention, to be submitted at each meeting of the COP for formal adoption. A similar approach is currently already been used within AEWA and ACCOBAMS. A consistent implementation of such a mechanism would also have the potential of increasing the overall consistency of the small grant programme with the other strategic and planning tools of the Convention.

Action requested

While the considerations expressed above do not want to represent at this stage a definite proposal from the Secretariat on the evolution of the Small Grant Programme of the Convention, the Standing Committee may wish to:

- a) Instruct the Secretariat to develop, in liaison with the Chairman of the CMS Scientific Council, a comprehensive proposal on the continuation of the CMS Small Grant Programme to be submitted to COP8 for consideration;
- b) Request the Scientific Council to produce, at its 13th Meeting, a list of coasted priority projects to be desirably implemented in the period 2006-2008 subject to the availability of funding.