

EU common activities for the implementation of the Convention on Migratory Species and its related instruments (Nov 2011 – Oct 2013)

General remark :

It would be great if we could make acquaintance of the new CMS Secretary during the 40th meeting of Standing Committee. It is also needed to be briefed on the implementation of Parties decisions at Bergen on the Future Shape process.

1. CMS and its relevant instruments

AEWA FR

- France organised and hosted the 5th Meeting of the Parties (MOP5) to the AEWA in La Rochelle from 12 to 16th May 2012 and also organised and hosted the pre-MOP Meeting on the African Action Plan. MOP5 counted 250 participants. At this occasion, France has offered to provide and finance three years of technical support to the African regional focal point for the implementation of the African Action Plan.

AEWA RO

- Organizing the Romania's Bird Day celebration every year on 1 April
- Romania hosted the 11th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (COP11) in Bucharest, from 6 - 13 July 2012. and the 44th Meeting of the Ramsar Standing Committee on 4th and 10th July 2012
- Full information can be found in the Romania's annual National Report to: <http://www.mmediu.ro/beta/domenii/protectia-naturii-2/biodiversitate/>

- **ASCOBANS UK**

- Full information can be found in the UK's annual national report to the agreement: [Link to UK report](#)

ACCOBAMS RO

- During the Project „Photo-identification of dolphins from the Romanian Black Sea coastal waters”, a voluntary network for dolphins' strandings and sightings surveys was initiated.
- 75 expeditions for collecting data on land and on the sea were organized.
- A number of 73 acoustic devices were used in 7 fisheries in order to reduce by-catches of dolphins. Full information can be found in the Romania's annual National Report to: <http://www.mmediu.ro/beta/domenii/protectia-naturii-2/biodiversitate/>

Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) for conservation of specific species

Aquatic Warbler FR

- Continued to implement the national action plan which is based on the International action plan developed under CMS.
- Share of experience between France and Ukraine within an international cooperation programme.

Aquatic Warbler PL

- In February 2012, a project titled „Conservation of Aquatic Warbler in Poland and Germany” (LIFE05 NAT/PL/000101), funded by the EU LIFE Nature Programme, has been completed and the final report has been circulated. Polish Society for the Protection of Birds (PSPB), main beneficiary of the project, led the monitoring of sites occupied by the Aquatic Warbler (AW) and inventory of its Polish population. More knowledge on threats and habitat requirements of this species was gained. New ways to manage the vegetation within Aquatic Warbler habitats were tested and their impact on the bird’s population measured. Results from AW monitoring in 2012 are in preparation as well as AW Action Plan for Poland .
- Under way is another project to protect Aquatic Warbler co-financed by EU LIFE+ and carried out by PSPB: “Facilitating Aquatic Warbler (*Acrocephalus paludicola*) habitat management through sustainable systems of biomass use” (LIFE09 NAT/PL/260). The main issue in this project is to introduce a sustainable development of biomass use systems, which will provide funding for conservation measurements on Aquatic Warbler sites, due to usage of the cut biomass. Thus, even after the project finishes, its partners will be willing to use the measures needed by Aquatic Warbler.
- AW has been also agreed as a one of the species covered in Monitoring of Birds carried out by Chief Inspectorate of Environmental Protection in The State Environmental Monitoring Programme, which starts in 2013. Under construction are agri-environmental schemes for Poland, based on new EU financial perspective, with AW also included in new agri-environmental payments.

Aquatic Warbler UK

- Continued to monitor occurrence at EU Special Protection Areas classified for the species on the south coast of England as well as at other sites where they occur on migration.

EUROBATS FR

- France hosted and organised the 7th Meeting of the Standing Committee in Paris on 28th March.
- Listing at the national level of a new bat species: *Myotis Escaleraei* as protected species under French Law

EUROBATS RO

- In Romania, the LIFE08 NAT/RO/000504 “Bat conservation in Pădurea Craiului, Bihor and Trascău Mountains”, allowed the ringing of bats species, increase public awareness, create a network of experts and organizations which contribute to the long-term monitoring and conservation of bat populations, elaborate the management plans of seven bat species, close 15 caves in a bat-friendly way to minimize the disturbance of bat colonies
- Full information can be found in the Romania’s annual National Report to: <http://www.mmediu.ro/beta/domenii/protectia-naturii-2/biodiversitate/>

Raptors (Birds of Prey) FR

- At the occasion of AEWA MOP5 in La Rochelle (France), in May 2012, France officially signed the Memorandum of understanding for the conservation of birds of prey of Africa and Eurasia.
- Continued monitoring of migrations through the “migracton” project.
- Continued implementation of the National Action Plans for the conservation of vultures, Lesser Kestrel, *Falco naumanni*, and Red Kite, *Milvus milvus*.

Raptors (Birds of Prey) RO

- At the occasion of CMS COP10 in Bergen (Norway), in November 2011, Romania officially signed the Memorandum of understanding on the conservation of migratory birds of prey in Africa and Eurasia
- An assessment of the effects of current agricultural subsidies and related habitat management practices on *F. cherrug's* habitat in Romania and Bulgaria applying the Hungarian -Slovak methods is ongoing (2010-2013). A GIS will be established containing map files of habitats incorporating up to date land cover and prey data.
- Implementing the LIFE+ project “Conservation of *Aquila pomarina* in Romania”, LIFE08NAT/RO/000501, 2010-2013 Full information can be found in the Romania’s annual National Report to the MoU: <http://www.mmediu.ro/beta/domenii/protectia-naturii-2/biodiversitate/>

Raptors (Birds of Prey) UK

- Contributed to the development of national reporting format
- Continued development of the multi-partner Scottish Raptor Monitoring Scheme and production of annual reports on the status of raptors in Scotland (available at <http://www.scottishraptorgroups.org/srmscheme.php>)
- Continued monitoring, at UK-scale of the status of rare raptors via the Rare Breeding Birds Panel (annual reports available at <http://www.rbbp.org.uk/rbbp-reports.htm>) and commoner species via the BTO/RSPB/JNCC Breeding Bird Survey (annual reports available at <http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/bbs/bbs-publications/bbs-reports>)

- Continued work to resolve conflicts concerning the Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*, including through the elimination of illegal persecution of this (and other raptor species in the UK) so as to reverse any declines in populations

Sharks DE

For the implementation of this MoU Germany has already decided to start 2013 with a research project about sharks & rays in the German North- and Baltic Sea (current and historical distribution, population size, threats and needed conservation measures). The project duration is foreseen until 2015.

Sharks RO

- At the occasion of CMS COP10, in Bergen (Norway), in November 2011, Romania officially signed the Memorandum of Understanding regarding the Conservation of Migratory Sharks.
- Regarding Spiny dogfish (*Squalus acanthias*), for protecting the reproduction and rehabilitation of the stock were adopted the following measures:
 - in the 60 days in a year, the fishing is prohibited;
 - it is banned to use the trawl in marine zone under the 20 m depths;
 - a new mesh size for dogfish gillnets is introduced
 - minimum admissible length in catches is established
- Full information can be found in the Romania's annual National Report to the <http://www.mmediu.ro/beta/domenii/protectia-naturii-2/biodiversitate/>

Sharks UK

- UK signed the CMS Shark MoU in June 2012
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2. Activities related to:

Scientific Research and Monitoring

ACAP UK

- Participation in research cruise around the Falkland Islands to investigate seabird interaction with fishing gear in the trawl fleet and the efficacy of tori lines in reducing by-catch;
- Assessment of status and trends of the Black-browed Albatross in the Falkland Islands;

ACCOBAMS RO

- The research programs in Romania were focused on the assessments of incidental catching dolphins, analysis of the current fishing practices, the assessment of the fishing effort and the risk, elaboration of recommendations supporting dolphins' protection

- It was elaborated the first photo identification catalogue for dolphins species.
- A data base of the marine mammals which comprises especially the data on dolphins monitoring was designed:strandings (alive or dead), incidentally catches, sightings (land-based, boat-based and aerial).

AEWA DE

- Germany will dedicate special attention to electric power lines - especially with the intention to help to diminish the problem of electrocution in Africa. Maybe Germany will be able already at the CMS COP report about further progress concerning this issue and about general help for the cooperation with Africa foreseen.

AEWA RO

- Biological,ecological research and monitoring of some bird species of Community interest in the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve were two projects implemented by the „Danube Delta” National Institute for Research and Development.
- During the Common Bird Monitoring Program, International Waterbird Count, over 50 ornithologists from Romania monitored the migratory waterbirds.
- The inventory activities of water birds were in all Romanian counties.
- „The National Action Plan of *Phalacrocorax pygmeus* and the National Action Plan of *Aythya nyroca* were elaborated by the Romanian Ornithological Society.
- Published the first- ever Romanian birds guide.

AEWA UK

- Continued input into the work plan of the Technical Committee including follow-up actions from the tenth meeting of the Committee in September 2011, and subsequent preparation of materials for MoP5.

ASCOBANS DE

- Germany deals with procedures and research projects focus on the avoidance or reduction of disturbance for marine fauna like harbour porpoises in relation with development renewable energy sector.

ASCOBANS PL

- Poland participates in the SAMBAH (Static Acoustic Monitoring of the Baltic Sea Harbour Porpoise) .

ASCOBANS UK

- Continue to undertake focused research and monitoring programmes to better understand and so reduce the incidental by-catch of cetaceans. The UK is focused on research into employing effective acoustic deterrent devices (Pingers) to deter cetaceans from fishing gear and so reduce bycatch levels. Devices currently being used are working well, with significant reductions in both harbour porpoise and common dolphin bycatch by UK fleets.
- ASCOBANS/UK funded research includes; analysis of 100 retrospective samples from UK-stranded harbour porpoises (2004-2008) for polychlorinated

biphenyls (PCBs); a project to assess PCB exposure in stranded bottlenose dolphins in European waters and a Risk Assessment of Potential Conflicts between Shipping and Cetaceans. A full list of the projects supported can be found at: http://www.ascobans.org/supported_projects.html

Aquatic Warbler FR

- Continued monitoring of Aquatic Warbler along the English Channel/North Sea and Atlantic coast line thanks to ringing programme.

Birds DE

Currently one of the most challenging issues in Germany is the conciliation of the interest to enlarge the supply of renewable energies with species conservation issues. Current procedures and research projects focus on the avoidance or reduction of disturbance for birds.

Birds PL

- In 2011 Chief Inspectorate of Environmental Protection started two new wintering bird monitoring programmes in Poland including monitoring of wintering waterbirds and monitoring of wintering marine birds.

Birds UK

- continued promotion of programmes of research and monitoring for migratory birds including assessment of implications of climate change for site-based protection under the Birds Directive for migrants
- Continued research and monitoring of the effectiveness of agri-environment schemes in respect to their efficacy in restoring to favourable conservation status declining populations of migratory farmland birds.

Raptors (Birds of Prey) FR

- Continued monitoring of migrations through the “migration” project.

Raptors (Birds of Prey) RO

- The objective of project Danube Protected Areas Network–Development and Implementation of Transnational Strategies for the Preservation of Danube Natural Heritage in Romania was the improvement of white-tailed eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) conservation status.
- Monitoring services by ringing of the White-tailed Eagle’s distribution (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) within the territory of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, 2009-2011.
- Mounting of artificial nests in the Western part of Romania.

EUROBATS DE

Germany deals with procedures and research projects focus on the avoidance or reduction of disturbance for bats in relation with development renewable energy sector.

EUROBATS PL

- From 21 species of bats which live in Poland 9 reached favorable conservation. In 2012 Polish Chief Inspectorate of Environmental Protection published detailed results of monitoring of several animal species in Poland in 2009–2011 including data concerning 5 bat species included in Appendix II of CMS: *Barbastella barbastellus*, *Myotis bechsteinii*, *Myotis dasycneme*, *Myotis emarginatus* and *Rhinolophus hipposideros*.

EUROBATS RO

- In Romania studies and researches were conducted during the hibernation period in the caves and in underground roosts during summer.
- An important data was recorded about the actual Romanian distribution and status of the bats species, data which could be an important support for species conservation.

EUROBATS UK

- The Bat monitoring programme is now in its 15th year. It is producing statistically robust population trends for 11 of the 17 bat species in the UK
- The UK is surveying sites to establish whether UK bat species are killed by wind-turbines. The final report is not due until 2013.

Education and Public Awareness**ACAP UK**

- Assessment of Black-browed Albatross featured in Falkland Island media

AEWA RO

- Leaflets, posters, brochures DVDs were produced for the International Day of Biological Diversity, the World Wetlands Day, the World Migratory Bird Day, awareness campaign to promote the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats.
- The main activities of the project „National awareness campaign regarding the importance of biodiversity conservation through Nature 2000 sites in Romania” for the period 2010–2013 were the development of the infrastructure and the Management Plans of the Nature 2000 Network, enhancing the public awareness, strengthening the institutional capacity in nature protection, enhancing the visibility in the media of the importance of biodiversity conservation, the development of the website on the Nature 2000 sites.
- „Grigore Antipa” National Museum of Natural History, NGOs, the zoos gardens, the local municipality, have been organizing many symposiums about the importance of biodiversity, the conservation status of migratory waterbirds and their natural habitats.

- The Local Environmental Protection Agencies and NGOs developed strategies and program on how to be "friendly" with the water birds.

AEWA UK

- Continued development of programmes to make more easily available data and information on the status, trends and threats to migratory species in the UK, especially through web-based reporting initiatives.

ASCOBANS UK

- A leaflet campaign was launched at the end of 2011, encouraging members of the public to report animals found stranded around the UK coast to the CSIP (http://ukstrandings.org/CSIP_leaflet.pdf).

ACCOBAMS RO

- Actions have been done by the National Institute of Marine Research and Development "Grigore Antipa" and the NGO "Mare Nostrum" on the reducing the human impact on the conservation status of dolphins.
- Every year Romania celebrates the "Dolphin Week", in the middle of July.
- 8 awareness campaigns were organized for the implementation of the National Action Plan for dolphin conservation and the website www.delfini.cier.ro was created.

CMS UK

- Information on CMS published on the Defra and Joint Nature Conservation Committees' (JNCC) websites

EUROBATS PL

- To celebrate "Year of the bats" two-days conference will be organized in Warsaw in November this year.

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EUROBATS RO

- A book for children was published in Romanian and Hungarian languages about bats species and their lives.
- A guide for land managers, land owners and their advisors concerning the management of bats habitats was elaborated.
- International Bat Night is organized every year by the Romanian Bat Protection Association..
- The National Environment Protection Agency, the Regional Environment Protection Agencies and NGOs passed on information to the public about the way bats live with exhibitions, presentations offering the opportunity to listen to the bat sounds with the support of ultrasound technology.

Sharks RO

- The National Institute for Marine Research and Development “Grigore Antipa organized a symposium where participated the government and local authorities, the research and development institutions and universities, scientific, professional and environmental NGOs, other organizations from Romania and abroad. The plenary lectures were the state of the marine and coastal environment development, the developing environment - friendly marine aquaculture for the blue economic, the analysis of public and stakeholder attitudes towards the aquaculture, the oceanography and coastal engineering, sustainable development tools and methods, Black Sea influence on the land surface temperature in the south Dobroudja plateau, the oceanographic and environmental data management in Romania, biodiversity conservation.

Raptors (Birds of Prey) RO

- Governmental agencies and the NGOs from Romania responded to the call and organized events making the International Vulture Awareness Day a great success.
- Several NGOs and 34 Local Environment Protection Agencies participated in the awareness campaign, publishing a series of leaflets and a technical guide for raptor protection.

Capacity Building**AEWA RO**

- Romania attended to the 5th Meeting of Parties held in La Rochelle, France.

ACCOBAMS RO

- Romania implemented the project “Strengthening the regional capacity to support the sustainable management of the Black Sea Fisheries.”
- Training of fishermen to use a proper handling techniques, released and recorded the dolphins by catches.
- Training course in methodology for field data collection, including sightings and strandings recording.
- Training courses for the fishermen, boarder Police and Romanian Navy.

EUROBATS RO

- A training course regarding the methods for the monitoring of bats species from Romania was organized for 45 persons (rangers from the national and natural parks, speleologists, custodians of natural protected areas, volunteers

from NGOs) within the LIFE08 project “Bat conservation in Craiului Forest, Bihor and Trascău Mountains”.

Sharks RO

- Strengthening the regional capacity to support the sustainable management of the Black Sea fisheries in Romania is a project implemented during the period 2011-2012 by the the National Institute for Marine Research and Development “Grigore Antipa. The major task of the project was to develop methods for joint-regional stock assessment for the Black Sea. The specific objectives are: harmonization of methods and tools to assess the present state of fish stocks by scientific surveys, holistic models, alignment of the common methods for sampling, and processing and interpretation data from fisheries and stock assessment using analytic models.

Raptors (Birds of Prey) RO

- The objective of the UNDP project „Improving the Financial Sustainability of the Carpathian System of Protected Areas” implemented by the National Forestry Administration ROMSILVA. During the period 2010-2013, was to secure the financial sustainability of Romania’s Carpathian Network through strengthening the supportive legislative framework, a sustainable protected areas financing Strategy and strengthening the institutional and individual capacities of management authorities
- Training on impact assessment in Romanian Natura 2000 sites.

ACAP UK

- Attended the Fourth Meeting of Parties;

AEWA UK

- Attended and fully participated in the 5th Meeting of Parties held in La Rochelle, France, and the 11th meeting of the Technical Committee in Accra, Ghana.

ASCOBANS UK

- Attended the 19th Meeting of the Advisory Committee in March 2012.
- UK hosting 7th Meeting of Parties (MoP7) in Brighton, October 2012.

ACCOBAMS UK

- The UK continues to encourage collaboration with ACCOBAMS, Joint Noise Working Group established.

EUROBATS UK

- Continued support of the iBats project. Development of and iBats web portal (www.ibats.org.uk) and ‘app’. iBats is a partnership between The Zoological Society of London and Bat Conservation Trust and runs a number of national and international bat biodiversity monitoring projects.

- Attended the EUROBATS 6th Standing Committee meeting in Bonn in March. The UK was also represented at the Advisory Committee meeting in Georgia in May.

IOSEA UK

- Representative from the UK's Joint Nature Conservation Committee attended the 6th Meeting of Signatory States in Bangkok in January 2012.

International Cooperation

ACCOBAMS RO

- The "First meeting of the *ad hoc* Working Group on the Black Sea" was held in Constanta, in 2012. The meeting was attended by experts from Romania, Bulgaria, Georgia, the Russian Federation, Turkey and Ukraine, as well as by representatives of the European Union, the Black Sea Commission, the Community Control Fishery Agency, the European Inland Fisheries Aquaculture Advisory Commission, EUROFISH and FAO.
- The priorities are to elaborate the unified methodological approaches to the scientific research, to create an integrated database of environmental factors, of marine living organisms, carry out joint scientific and field research, collaborative publications and conference participation, joint training and internship of scientific experts and staff.

AEWA FR

- Financial support provided to support the development of the first edited field guide to identify migratory waterbirds of North Africa in Arabic
- Financial support provided to develop a capacity building bilingual (French/Arabic) CD ROM for the identification of waterbirds . The CD Rom was presented and distributed to Parties at the occasion of the AEWA MOP5.
- Continued activities under the France funded SPOVAN project to enhance capacities on waterbird identification in the Nile Valley in Sudan and Egypt.
- Continued development of the France funded project on waterbird international census and wetland conservation and management in the Mediterranean Bassin.
- Launching of the France funded project, ZHOMAS, an international capacity building project to enhance implementation of AEWA and RAMSAR in SubSaharan Africa.
- Support to the publication of an Atlas of Wintering Waterbirds in Lybia
- Continued financial and technical support provided to sustain monitoring activities on migratory waterbirds in Belarus, Russia, Lithuania, Latvia through OMPO.

AEWA RO

- The Romania-Hungary cross-border cooperation Programme 2007-2013 is supposed to meet the challenges and opportunities of the border area, based on previous cross border cooperation experience and also to integrate the region at European and global level through increasing competitiveness and

ensuring sustainable development e. g: "Development and promotion of ecological tourism".

AEWA UK

- Continued bilateral co-operation on projects related to migratory birds, especially with the Republic of Ireland with respect to wintering waterbirds and breeding seabirds in particular, as well as joint UK and Ireland breeding and wintering bird atlas.

Aquatic Warbler FR

- Share of experience between France and Ukraine within an international cooperation programme.

ACAP UK

- Discussions taking place between UK, South Africa and Tristan da Cunha over use of SA research vessel;

ASCOBANS UK

- Agreed ECS/ASCOBANS/ACCOBAMS Workshop on Management of Marine Protected Areas for Cetaceans
- Joint ACCOBAMS/ASCOBANS Working Group on the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)

EUROBATS UK

- iBats project operating in Romania, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Russia and Hungary.

Protection of Migratory Species, conservation measures

ACAP UK

- Involvement with Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) continues, particularly in the development of effective observer programmes

AEWA UK

- Compiled International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Greenland White-fronted Goose which was signed off at the 5th MoP in France. Implementing actions in that plan and others relevant to UK including for Bewick's Swan
- Undertaking of review of the UK network of Special Protection Areas classified, inter alia for migratory species, under the EU Birds Directive
- The decade-long series of aerial surveys of inshore waterbird aggregations outside breeding season around UK is almost complete.

EUROBATS FR

- Listing at the national level of a new bat species: *Myotis Escalerae* as protected species under French Law.

EUROBATS RO

- In 2011, the "Program bat detector field Course" was organized by the Romanian Bat Protection Association and the Natuurpunt (Belgia) for the identification of the echolocation calls and monitoring the Nature 2000 sites.
- The results of LIFE+ project "Bat conservation in Craiului Forest, Bihor and Trascau Mountains" are the closing of 15 caves in a bat-friendly way, measures to avoid the disturbance of bats in the most important tourism oriented caves like the modifications of lighting conditions and cleaning up the important underground habitats from waste.

Raptors MoU UK

- Raptor MoU - Provided comment and advice to the Raptor Interim Coordinating Unit during the process for the drafting of Guidance for National Contact Points.

Raptors MoU RO

- One of the most relevant cross-border cooperation projects is the "Romanian-Hungarian corridor for the biodiversity conservation" financed through PHARE CBC Program. This corridor was created between the Apuseni National Park, the protected areas Rădvani Forest and Cefa lake in Romania and Koros - Maros National Park in Hungary, having as objectives biodiversity conservation, development of ecotourism and educational cross-border activities.

Sharks RO

- The National Institute for Marine Research and Development "Grigore Antipa cooperates with the Regional Fisheries Management Organisations, the Institute of Fishing Resources, Varna, Bulgaria, the Institute of Oceanography of Bulgarian Academy of Science, the Southern Research Institute of Sea Fisheries and Oceanography, Kerch, the Central Fisheries Research Institute, Trabzon, the Black Sea Technical University, the Marine Science Faculty, Trabzon, China Agricultural University, Beijing, "Alexander" Technological Environmental Association, Thessaloniki, Greece and other international organizations.
- Cooperation between the Black Sea riparian countries is for knowing and rationally managing the marine ecosystem and its resources, carrying out diagnostics of fish stocks status as well as advice on management strategies.

ASCOBANS PL

- Under way is a 4-year project (2009–2012) "Support for Restoration and Protection of Baltic Mammals". In the frame of the project a year-round monitoring of the coastal area is conducted with participation of volunteers trained (so called "Blue Patrol"), as well as the educational action concerning the methods of porpoises and seals conservation.

ASCOBANS UK

- Appointed coordinator to help implement Conservation Plan for Harbour Porpoises in the North Sea.

ACCOBAMS RO

- The National Institute for Marine Research and Development "Grigore Antipa" Constanța, in partnership with the NGO "Mare Nostrum" and Dolphinarium launched the project "Conservation of the dolphins from the Romanian Black Sea waters", granted with financial support from the European Commission.
- The project "Improving the conservation status of marine biodiversity in the Romanian costal zone, particularly dolphins", funded by the Sectoral Operational Programme Environment was carried out in the marine area of the Danube Delta.
- Prohibiting the use of the dredges, of turbot fixed nets with side mesh size under 200 mm and fineness of the yarn under tex 6, 350;
- Protect the spawning areas, feeding and wintering fishery.

Administrative, Institutional & Legislative /Policy measures**CMS UK**

- UK continues to press for strong, scientifically led management measures at all fisheries management meetings, and where appropriate through conservation bodies such as CMS and CITES.
- Shark species that have been identified as vulnerable or endangered, including basking shark, spurdog and porbeagle, have been protected in the UK (and throughout Europe) through a range of fisheries management measures, including zero TAC's and prohibitions on landings of species under the Common Fisheries Policy.
- UK affords the basking shark additional legal protection from harm and disturbance under the UK's Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA).

CMS RO

- The Romanian Ornithological Society, WWF Romania and the custodians of the Nature 2000 sites continued to lobby and support the central authorities for elimination of the legal provisions that are contradictory with some conservation measures, for a better reflection of the Nature 2000 sites in the economical legislation and for securing the protected areas financing, including payments for ecosystem services.
- Regarding the implementation of "Nature 2000" Network, the Romanian legislation transposed the provisions of two Directives through Government Emergency Ordinance No. 57/2007 on the regime of protected natural habitats, conservation of natural habitats of flora and fauna approved with amendments by Law No. 49/2011, the Minister Order No. 2387/2011 on the

establishment of protected natural area regime for the sites of community importance and by Decision No. 971/2011 regarding the declaration of Special Protection Areas as integrant parts of the European ecological network „Nature 2000” in Romania.

- Romania were identified 531 sites in „Nature 2000” Network (383 SCI and 148 SPA), with a total area of 23 % of the national territory.
- Law No. 253/2011 amending paragraph (3) of art. 67 of Government Emergency Ordinance No. 23/2008 on fishing and aquaculture.

3. Activities planned for next year

ACAP UK

- Rat and reindeer eradication activities planned for the Busen Peninsular in March 2013;
- Monitoring ecosystem recovery in South Georgia during November and December 2012 following baiting/eradication operations; and
- Review of ACAP plans for the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Tristan da Cunha.

AEWA RO

- Increasing the efficiency of the waterbirds monitoring system in the relevant sites for waterbirds species;
- Elaborating and implementation the Single Species Action Plans for the target waterbirds species;
- Designation of new Special Protected Areas;
- Modern survey and research equipment;
- Take measures to conserve migratory waterbirds, giving special attention to endangered species as well as to those with an unfavourable conservation status;
- Limiting the negative impact of the navigation on the waterbirds habitats
- Take immediate action to stop the decline of migratory waterbirds species and their habitats;
- Develop and maintain programmes to raise awareness and understanding of migratory waterbirds conservation issues;
- Exchange information and results from research, monitoring, conservation and education programmes.

AEWA UK

- Publication by British Trust for Ornithology, the Scottish Ornithologists’ Club and Birdwatch Ireland of new Atlas of breeding and wintering birds in Britain and Ireland for the period 2008-2011
- Publication of a new assessment of population sizes for birds in the UK for use in international reporting as well as other conservation purposes.

- A range of monitoring activities are being supported to contribute a picture of the dynamics of migratory species.

ASCOBANS PL

- The project “Ghost nets retrieval from the Baltic Sea” will be continued for the next year from April 2012 until March 2013 in cooperation with Lithuania.

ASCOBANS/ACCOBAMS UK

- An ECS/ ASCOBANS/ACCOBAMS Workshop on Management of Marine Protected Areas for Cetaceans will be held in 2013

ACCOBAMS RO

- Monitoring the strandings to reduced the mortality induced by fishing activity;
- Organize new photo-identification sessions and awareness campaigns;
- Promote the research for the purpose of improving gear, equipment and fishing techniques;
- Exchange of scientific research data between ACCOBAMS Parties
- Developing inter-institutional partnerships;
- Propose legislative and regulatory reforms to improve biodiversity protection, taking into account the European Marine Strategy;
- Elaborate the studies for the impact assesment of the economic activity on dolphins species.

EUROBATS RO

- Identify possible threats for bats species in their migratory routes and the populations trends;
- Increase the interdisciplinarity research;
- Development of collaboration and exchange of information between research institutions, regional and national agencies and all other sectors including the private sector, local communities, NGOs;
- Developing and enhancing institutional capacity;
- Developing information and increase the public awareness at all levels concerning the need to improve the actual status of bats’ conservation and their habitats.

EUROBATS UK

- Bats continue to be a UK wildlife crime priority

Shark RO

It is planned:

- Establish common policy of Black Sea countries for development of small-scale fisheries sector including harmonized fisheries regulation measures;

- Develop of specific indicators for the Black Sea to monitor and assess the state of key resources/habitats;
- Undertake concerted actions to combat illegal fishing and to establish regional consultation mechanisms between the Black Sea coastal states;
- Joint survey (6 Black Sea countries) are recommended to follow the distribution patterns, spawning areas, catch/effort unit, biomass estimations, diet, maturity indices etc;
- .Strengthening the regional legal framework for sustainable management;
- Establishing a regional organization through negotiation on signing of legally binding documents for fisheries;
- Harmonizing the development strategies of the fishing sector with those of environmental protection, through implementing the concept regarding the fishing management based on the ecosystem approach and the FAO Code of Conduct for a responsible fishing.

Raptors MoU RO

- Elaboration of the inventory of the current situation on raptors;
- Strengthening the application of legal protection for birds of prey by ensuring appropriate penalties and raising public awareness to boost surveillance and reporting of illegal activities;
- Developing the raptor's conservation projects;
- Support the cross-border exchanges between environmental NGOs experts in order to strengthen cooperation and partnership in raptors monitoring;
- Preparing the National Raptor Conservation and Management Strategy;
- Implementing the raptors MoU Action Plan.