

Report from Countries of Central and Eastern Europe to the 40th Meeting of the CMS Standing Committee

(based on contributions from Republic of Armenia, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine)

Regional activities for the implementation of the Convention on Migratory Species and its related instruments

Period from last to present meeting of the CMS Standing Committee (November 2011 – October 2012)

1. CMS and its relevant instruments

Agreements for conservation of specific species

Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA)

Georgia

Ilia State University in collaboration with the Georgian NGO 'Psovi' and the group of Belgian researchers, in August-September of 2010, 2011 and 2012, conducted for the first time in Georgia the ringing program of the migratory birds. The activities were undertaken in river Chorokhi estuary and the surrounding area, as well as at the area adjacent to the Kolkheti National Park. Up to 45 000 of birds have been ringed.

Ukraine

- Report on AEWA related activities in Ukraine can be found at http://www.unep-aewa.org/meetings/en/mop/mop5_docs/nr/ukraine_national_report_2009_2011.pdf.
- Ukraine takes part in the work of the AEWA Lesser White-fronted Goose International Working Group. The latest report can be found at http://www.unep-aewa.org/meetings/en/lwfg_iwg/meeting2/nat_rep/ukraine_2_8_15.pdf
- Every year the World Migratory Bird Day is celebrated in Ukraine.

Agreement on the Conservation of cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS)

Georgia

Since 2009 the surveys on three species of the Black Sea marine mammals have been regularly conducted along the Georgian coast. The research is conducted by Ilia State University and is focused on the quantitative assessments and seasonal distribution of all three species, *Phocoena phocoena*, *Tursiops truncatus*, and *Delphinus delphis*.

Ukraine

- Ukraine is a member of ACCOBAMS Bureau
- On 22.05.2012 there was a meeting hosted by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine where the areas for establishment/expansion of marine protected areas for cetaceans had been discussed and identified.
- There are ongoing activities on cetaceans stranding and occurrence observations in the Black Sea and Sea of Azov coordinated by BREMA Laboratory (Simpheropol, Ukraine)

Agreement on the Conservation of Population of European Bats (EUROBATS)

Ukraine participated in the meetings of EUROBATS Advisory Committee (Dublin, Ireland, 15–17 May 2012) and Standing Committee (Paris, France, 28 March 2012).

According to the Order No. 134 of 06.03.2012 of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine a composition of Scientific Advisory Council on Protection of Bats was renovated. The Council is established at the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine pursuant to Article III, paragraph 5, of EUROBATS.

Memoranda of Understanding for conservation of specific species

Birds

Aquatic Warbler

Ukraine

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

2. Activities related to:

☐ Scientific Research and Monitoring

Republic of Armenia

Analysis of occurring in the Republic of Armenia species, which are included in Appendices I and II of the Convention and amendment of their list were carried out; and suggestions concerning new species to be included in the list were prepared, they should be discussed by the appropriate research institutes.

☐ Education and Public Awareness

Republic of Armenia

Meetings and discussions were held with representatives of mapping and specialized organizations to create information and map base concerning the ecological peculiarities and distribution of migratory species of wild animals occurring in the Republic of Armenia.

Republic of Moldova:

- Develop Action Plan on Education for Sustainable Development.
- Media activities;
 - Interviews: 4 interviewiuri
 - Press Releases: 10 Press Releases
 - Broadcasts: 2 issues
 - Published articles: 2 articles.
- The organization of the event:
 - International Day of Biodiversity
 - Day migratory birds
 - Danube Day
 - Environmental Day
 - Day bank

- European Day of Parks
- Wetlands Day

Ukraine

- A number of events had been organized in the framework of International Year of the Bat 2011–2012. Information on that event were widely presented in mass-media and in Internet in particular
- According to an instruction of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine World Migratory Bird Day, World Wetlands Day had been celebrated in 2012 across the territory of Ukraine.

International Cooperation

Republic of Moldova:

- Developed projects and cooperation agreements on cooperation between the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova and environmental ministries of Estonia, Israel, Czech Republic, Poland, Romania, Belarus etc.
- Developed proposals on amending and supplementing the Agreement between the Government and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on cooperation in protection and sustainable development of the Dniester River basin.

Ukraine

- There is ongoing cooperation on bat research
- Representative of Ukraine is a Chair the ACCOBAMS Scientific Council and coordinates research activities according to ACCOBAMS decisions and priorities
- Participation in World Bird Census.

The Black Sea workshop on ACCOBAMS implementation took place in Istanbul, Turkey, from 28–29 June 2012 where the Black Sea riparian countries discussed the current state, challenges and priorities for ACCOBAMS implementation in the Black Sea.

Protection of Migratory Species, conservation measures

Republic of Moldova reported that Draft Strategy and Action Plan on Biodiversity Conservation (GEF project is developed - UNDP "National Biodiversity Plan to support the implementation of the CBD Strategic Plan 2011-2020 in Moldova").



Administrative, Institutional & Legislative /Policy measures

Republic of Armenia

- Under the November 10, 2011, RA governmental decision N1594-N, four actions were defined for 2012-2016 concerning fulfillment of CMS Convention in line with other conventions.
- Works on drafting the RA government's protocol decision on Approval of the Concept for Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and National Action Plan have been started.

Republic of Moldova

- Draft law amending Annex 1 to the Law on Animal Kingdom nr.439-XIII of April 27, 1995.

- Draft Law of hunting and the protection of hunting.
- Order no. 9 of 26.01.12 on the implementation of the GEF project "National Biodiversity Plan to support the implementation of the CBD Strategic Plan 2011-2020 in Moldova".
- Order no. 10 of 14.02.2012 on the establishment of the Working Group for drafting the Law on the protection of wildlife and hunting.

Regulations approved by Republic of Moldova:

Government Decision no. 606 of 15 August 2012 on the regulation of hunting in hunting season 2012-2013.

Ukraine

- Parliament (Verkhovna Rada) of Ukraine adopted on 16 October 2012 a Law on accession of Ukraine to amendments to ACCOBAMS according to Resolution A/4.1. The Law was signed by the President of Ukraine on the 2nd of November 2012
- The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine by its Decision No. 577-r of 25.05.2012 adopted the National Action Plan on Environmental Protection where a number of measures on protection of migratory species of wild animals have been foreseen.
- According to the Decisions of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of 23.02.2011 No. 147-r and of 21.09.2012 No. 895-r 13 new wetlands of international importance had been identified and officially approved. Currently, there are 46 wetlands of international importance in Ukraine covering 702.4 thousand ha.

3. Activities planned for next year

Republic of Armenia

After the enactment of CMS Convention in Armenia, discussions on procedures for and expediency of joining AEWA and EUROBATS agreements have been restarted.

Republic of Moldova

Approval of the Law on the protection of wildlife and hunting.

Ukraine

- Census of cetaceans in the Black Sea
- Establishment/expansion of protected areas for cetaceans in the Black Sea
- Celebration of World Migratory Bird Day, European Bat Night, and World Wetlands Day
- Accomplishment of migratory species related measures according to National Action Plan on Environmental Protection for 2011-2015 endorsed by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on 25.05.2011 No. 577-r and resolutions of CMS and its related instruments
- Participation in AEWA International Working Group for the Red-breasted Goose (*Branta ruficollis*).