



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CMS/Conf. 8.3
20 October 2005

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

EIGHTH MEETING OF THE
CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
Nairobi, 20-25 November 2005
Agenda item 8 (a)

REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT 2002-2005

1. The Secretariat has prepared this report for the Eighth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as required under the terms of the Convention. It gives an overview of the Secretariat's work since COP 7 in September 2002 to the present. It also covers certain aspects of the implementation of the Convention not dealt with in other conference papers.

I. Status of the Convention

A. *Membership*

2. Membership of the Convention reached 92 Parties by 1 September 2005 and will reach 93 by the time of COP 8, when Samoa accedes on 1 November 2005. A further 22 States are participating in various CMS Agreements and Memoranda without yet having joined the parent Convention. 13 Parties have joined during the period 2002-2005.

3. The 13 new Parties to have joined CMS since COP7 (listed in reverse order, by date of entry into force) are: Samoa (1.11.2005), Seychelles (1.8.2005), Austria (1.7.2005), Rwanda (1.6.2005), Eritrea (1.2.2005), Liberia (1.12.2004), Djibouti (1.11.2004), Mauritius (1.6.2004), Ecuador (1.2.2004), Belarus (1.9.2003), Côte d'Ivoire (1.7.2003), Syrian Arab Republic (1.6.2003), and Bolivia (1.3.2003). A number of countries are known to have finalized their internal ratification or accession procedures or are presently in the process of ratifying or acceding to CMS. At the time this document is being prepared Algeria, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, and Yemen are understood to be close to accession (see Annex I).

4. The distribution of Parties across the different regions is as follows (increase since COP7 shown in parentheses): Europe 37 (+2), Africa 33 (+7), Asia and the Pacific 15 (+2), the Americas and the Caribbean 8 (+2). The encouraging rate of growth continues apace in Europe and Africa, but is offset by the continuing low level of participation in Asia-Pacific and the Americas, which are the regions with the least representation in CMS. It is encouraging that 3 Small Island Developing States (SIDS) have joined since the last Conference: the Secretariat is continuing to make strong efforts (including a new leaflet) to encourage more Parties from this group.

5. The number of signatory States that have yet to deposit instruments of ratification has fallen to three: Central African Republic, Jamaica, and Madagascar.

6. Recruitment efforts continue to focus on the countries below, including those identified as priorities by the CMS Standing Committee, as follows:

- North America: Canada, Mexico, United States;
- South and Central America: Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Venezuela;
- Europe: Russian Federation; Estonia
- Africa: Algeria, Namibia, Sierra Leone;
- Asia: China, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Republic of Korea, Thailand, Turkey, Vietnam, Yemen;
- SIDS: Cape Verde, Comoros, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, Papua New Guinea, Tuvalu, Vanuatu.

The Secretariat has communicated with all of these countries, and many other non-Parties, during the reporting period (i.e. through missions/briefing sessions, direct contacts at meetings, and correspondence).

B. Amendments to Appendices I and II

7. The Seventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties adopted proposals to include twenty-one species in Appendix I; among them five mammal species: the Fin Whale, Sei Whale, Sperm Whale and Ganges River Dolphin, Wild or Bactrian Camel; also fifteen bird species: Pink-footed Shearwater, Peruvian Diving Petrel, Japanese Night Heron, Black-faced Spoonbill, Swan Goose, Baikal Teal, Pallas' Sea Eagle, White-naped Crane, Hooded Crane, Spotted Greenshank, Spoon-billed Sandpiper, Chinese Crested Tern, Grey-cheeked Parakeet, Marsh Seedeater, and Cock-tailed Tyrant; one fish species was added: the Great White Shark. Twenty species were added to Appendix II, including seven species of marine mammals, two species of eared seals, two species of sirenians and five species of terrestrial mammals. Also, five bird species and one fish species were added to Appendix II. A complete list of all the species included in the CMS Appendices appears in document UNEP/CMS/Inf.8.8.

8. For COP8, twelve species have been proposed for inclusion in Appendix I, among them three mammal species: the Gorilla (proposed by Congo), the Mediterranean population of the Short-beaked Common Dolphin (proposed by Monaco), and the Bukhara Deer (proposed by Tajikistan); seven bird species: the Henderson Petrel (proposed by the United Kingdom), Balearic Shearwater (proposed by Spain), Madagascar Pond-Heron, Maccoa Duck, Basra Reed Warbler, Spotted Ground Trush (all proposed by Kenya), and Red Knot (proposed by Argentina); two fish species are under consideration: the Basking Shark (proposed by UK and Australia), and the Atlantic Sturgeon (proposed by France).

9. The Secretariat has also received proposals for the inclusion of sixteen species in Appendix II at COP8: the African populations of the Natal Clinging Bat (proposed by Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo, Bulgaria, Ukraine and Malta), the Large-eared Free-tailed Bat (proposed by Kenya and Democratic Republic of Congo), and the Straw-coloured Fruit Bat (proposed by Kenya and Democratic Republic of Congo); the Mediterranean populations of the Short-beaked Common Dolphin and the Striped Dolphin (both proposed by Monaco); as a sixth mammal species the inclusion of the Bukhara Deer was proposed by Tajikistan. Kenya also proposed the inclusion of two bird species, the White-collared Pranticole and the African Skimmer; other birds under consideration are the Strange-tailed Tyrant, Cock-tailed Tyrant, Chestnut Seedeater, Rufous-rumped Seedeater, Marsh Seedeater, White-collared Seedeater and Saffron-cowled Blackbird (all proposed by Paraguay). The United Kingdom proposed the inclusion of one fish species, the Basking Shark.

C. Reports from Parties

10. Parties that are Range States for species listed in Appendix I and II are required to report at least six months prior to each meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the measures they are taking to implement the provisions of the Convention for these species. As of the time of writing, the Secretariat had received national reports from 50 Parties (as of 30 September 2005). All but one used the reporting format adopted at COP7. Detailed information on national reports is contained in documents UNEP/CMS/Conf.8.5 and UNEP/CMS/Conf.8.14.

II. Secretariat Arrangements

A. Premises

11. The Secretariat has been in its current premises in Bonn – shared with secretariats of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Desertification Convention, as well as the headquarters of the United Nations Volunteers and the United Nations Information Centre – for nearly nine years. This arrangement has conferred a number of tangible benefits to CMS, including a more cost-effective telecommunications and mail delivery system, access to an advanced computer network, and better integration within the UN system. The CMS Secretariat participates in the Common Premises Management Committee and is involved in other operational matters, on behalf of CMS and its co-located Agreements AEWA, ASCOBANS and EUROBATS.

12. It was agreed in 2003 that the Government of Germany would provide a new “campus” for UN bodies in Bonn, as part of its policy to attract and retain international agencies in the city of Bonn, following the transfer of most German government departments to Berlin, which started in 1994. In the meantime, constraints in space in our current offices at Haus Carstanjen led to a decision to re-locate the three Agreement Secretariats temporarily in offices about 1 km away known as the “OBS Building”. Unfortunately a series of unforeseen delays in establishing the new UN Campus (originally due to open in October 2005) have led to an enforced physical separation with the CMS Family which will have lasted for 22 months by the time the new UN Campus building is ready in 2006. The new Campus facilities will not only allow the whole CMS Family to be reunited on adjacent floors, but also provide much better facilities (especially for meetings and exhibitions) and room for expansion.

B. Secretariat Personnel

13. For the first time since many years, the Convention Secretariat reached 100% complement levels in April 2005. Since COP7, the Secretariat has welcomed the following new or promoted staff members:

- Mr Robert Hepworth, who joined the Secretariat as Acting Executive Secretary in August 2004 after the retirement of Mr Mueller-Helmbrecht, and was confirmed as Executive Secretary in April 2005
- Mr Lahcen El Kabiri, the Deputy Executive Secretary, who replaced Mr Douglas Hykle in August 2004
- Mr Francisco Rilla Manta, Information and Capacity Building Officer, who joined the Secretariat in February 2005
- Ms Paola Deda, Inter-Agency Liaison Officer, who started in April 2005
- Mr Liam Addis, Administrative Assistant, was the successful candidate for a post created in September 2004
- Mr Abderrahmane Jai, Finance Assistant, who filled a new post in October 2004
- Mr Henning Lilje, Administrative Assistant, who started in November 2004
- Ms Marion Dankers, Registry Clerk, who joined the Secretariat in October 2003
- Mr Jochen Hilkert, Computer Operations Clerk, appointed in March 2005

14. A separate paper by the Executive Secretary (Conf.8.17) covers Secretariat Manpower and Organisation, including recent recruitment, staff deployment, teamwork and the “CMS Family concept”. An organisation chart listing all current CMS staff is also attached to the paper.

15. During the reporting period, the Secretariat has benefited greatly from a number of short-term internships and consultancies, as well as temporary administrative support from UNON. It is the intention of the Secretariat to strengthen the internship programme, also in light of the additional space that will be available in the new UN Campus from April 2006.

16. The Government of Germany also sponsored a Junior Professional Officer post, which supported the Administration and Fund Management Unit for the period January 2004 to January 2005. From 1 October 2005, Germany is financing a JPO Information Officer post in the co-located AEWA Secretariat: by mutual

agreement the post holder will also provide some information services (particularly on the CMS website) to the parent Convention. A further JPO post to provide scientific and technical support in the CMS Science and Conservation Unit was approved by UNEP in August 2005 as a priority appointment. Details were sent to the 12 governments with which UNEP currently has JPO agreements, 10 of which are CMS Parties: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, and Sweden. The Secretariat looks forward to a positive response from donor Parties.

C. *Managerial and Administrative Issues*

17. Since the new Executive Secretary commenced work at the Secretariat, a number of managerial and administrative changes have been introduced. In order to improve cooperation and teamwork, the concept of the “CMS Family” has been established as an umbrella to promote teamwork and renewed harmony between officers working for the “parent” Convention and the 4 “daughter” Agreements in Bonn and Bangkok, irrespective of grade and location. Regular meetings of all professional staff are now held at 4-6 week intervals, which help to resolve common issues or problems before they become disruptive.

18. Internal review of the Convention Secretariat’s work was undertaken by the incoming Executive Secretary. This covered topics including maximum level of CMS project grants, linking CMS to WSSD 2010 targets, a review of GROMS, a fundraising campaign, a Service Level Agreement for the central administrative unit, French and Arabic publications, upgrading of the website and improving relations with UNEP. To further renew the implementation of the Strategic and Work Plans of CMS, an experimental system for the CMS Conservation Activities budget was established in 2005, designed to give greater authority and responsibility to individual programme officers for their projects, and to encourage fuller take-up of the available budget.

19. Shortly before the arrival of the new Executive Secretary, a report of the Office of the Internal Oversight Service (OIOS) Audit was prepared, which was thoroughly appraised and, where agreed, implemented. By far the most important recommendation pointed towards a Service Level Agreement (SLA) to govern the quality of services provided by the UNON-staffed administration unit of five officers to CMS and the Agreements. An SLA was drawn up and negotiated in November-December 2004, and came into force in January 2005 – it is regarded as a pioneer within the UNEP/UNON family.

20. In order to enhance the visibility of the Convention with individual governments, at international meetings and as a partner for other bodies in the IGO/NGO sector, efforts have been made to systematically initiate or rebuilt cooperation and be actively involved at major meetings, ensuring an appropriate profile for the Convention. Such meetings include the IUCN World Conservation Congress, held in November 2004, the “Chirac” Biodiversity Meetings in Paris in January 2005, and the UNEP Governing Council in February 2005. More detailed information on partnership agreements and joint work plans with other organisations can be found in Section IV of this report.

III. Work of the Secretariat

A. *Support to Development and Implementation of CMS Agreements, and Species-related Projects and Publications*

21. We report on Secretariat activities in support of CMS Agreements in more detail in other documents, notably UNEP/CMS/Conf.8.4 (Strategic Issues on Agreements already in Force), UNEP/CMS/Conf.8.5 (Development of new and future Agreements), and UNEP/CMS/Conf.8.7 (Outcome of Strategic Plan 2000-2005). The headlines are below:

BIRDS

- Support to International Workshop ‘Ferruginous Duck – From Research to Conservation’ (Sofia, Bulgaria, 11-14 October 2002)
- Preparatory work and co-organisation of the Meeting to Conclude the Memorandum of Understanding

- concerning Conservation Measures for the Aquatic Warbler and associated Action Plan (Minsk, April 2003) leading to the conclusion and entry into effect of the MoU;
- Co-organisation of the Fifth Meeting of Range States to the Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Siberian Crane (Moscow, April 2004) leading to the adoption of revised Conservation Plans for the Western, Central and Eastern populations;
- Preparatory work and co-organisation of the First Meeting of the Signatory States of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of the Middle-European Populations of the Great Bustard (Illmitz, September 2004) leading to *inter alia* the adoption of a medium term international work programme;
- Preparatory work and co-organisation of the Meeting to Conclude and Endorse the Proposed Central Asian Flyway Action Plan to Conserve Migratory Waterbirds and their Habitats (New Delhi, June 2005) producing a finalised action plan;
- Preparatory work and co-organisation of the Meeting to Endorse the Proposed Western/Central Asian Site Network for Siberian Cranes (and other Waterbirds) (New Delhi, June 2005) leading to the basis for establishing a site network

Secretariat-facilitated projects:

- Support to Range States in the implementation of activities identified under the CMS MoU concerning Conservation Measures for the Siberian Crane (completed 2003)
- Status overview and recommendations for *Oxyura leucocephala* Central Asian population (completed 2003)
- Threatened migratory Grassland birds in Argentina: an approach to habitat use at local and landscape scales (completed 2004)
- Concerted actions for the conservation and management of *C. rubidiceps* in Argentina and Chile (completed 2004)
- Studies of waterbirds, water levels, and aquatic food plants as a basis for conservation of threatened wetlands at Poyang Lake, China (completed 2004)
- Conservation of the Saffron-cowled Blackbird *Xanthopsas flavus* (completed 2004)
- Conservation of the Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca* (completed 2005)
- Implementing Priority Actions for the conservation of the High Andes flamingos (completed 2005)
- Drafting of a single species Action Plan for the White-headed duck *Oxyura leucocephala* (completed 2005)
- Drafting of a Single Species Action Plan for the Corncrake *Crex crex* (completed 2005)
- Identification of Aquatic Warbler Wintering Sites (completed 2005)
- Survey of the Humboldt penguin *Spheniscus humboldti* populations in the Peruvian Southern coast
- Catching operation for locating wintering areas for Lesser White-fronted Geese (*Anser erythropus*) migrating through Kazakhstan by means of satellite telemetry (in progress)

TERRESTRIAL MAMMALS

- Preparatory work and co-organisation of the Second Regional Workshop on the Conservation and Restoration of Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes (Agadir, May 2003) to produce an updated action plan for the region
- Preparatory work for the negotiation of an Article IV Agreement on gorillas, in collaboration with IUCN, IRSNB and AWF

Secretariat-facilitated projects:

- Development of Concerted Actions for the conservation of Sahelo-Saharan antelopes (in progress)

Publications:

- Proceedings of the second regional seminar on the conservation and restoration of Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes – CMS Technical Series Publication No. 8) (2003)

AQUATIC MAMMALS

- Support to Workshop on the conservation status and research priorities of Aquatic Mammals in Latin America (Valdivia, Chile, 18-19 October 2002)
- Preparatory work and co-organisation of the Second Workshop on CMS and Marine Mammal Conservation in the South Pacific (Apia, March 2004) to provide background information on CMS to

regional representatives and establish the basis to develop a Cetaceans MoU for the Pacific Islands Region;

- Preparatory work and co-organisation of the Third Workshop on CMS and the First Drafting Group Meeting on a Memorandum of Understanding for the Conservation of Cetaceans and their Habitats in the Pacific Islands Region (Nadi, July 2005) to finalise a proposed draft MoU for official circulation to Range States;
- Preparatory work for the First Meeting on Dugong Conservation in the Indian Ocean and South-east Asia Region (Bangkok, July 2005) resulting in a framework to develop a future MoU

Secretariat-facilitated projects:

- Survey of dolphin population in Timor and Arafura Seas (Australia - Indonesia) (completed 2004)
- Survey of the Exploitation, Distribution and Natural History of Cetaceans in Ghana and Togo (completed 2004)
- Abundance estimation, habitat use and stock identity of the franciscana, *P. blainvillei* (completed 2005)
- Training Course for South Asian Scientists and Assessment of Coastal Cetacean Populations in the Bay of Bengal (completed 2005)
- Survey of the marine otter *Lontra felina* populations in the Peruvian Southern coast (in progress)

Publications:

- Conserving Cetaceans: The Convention on Migratory Species and its Relevant Agreements for Cetacean Conservation (2003) (in coll. with ASCOBANS, ACCOBAMS and WDCCS)
- Report of the Second Workshop on the Biology and Conservation of Small Cetaceans and Dugongs of South-East Asia – CMS Technical Series Publication No. 9 (2005)
- Review of Small Cetaceans: Distribution, Behaviour, Migration and Threats (2005) (in coll. with UNEP)

MARINE TURTLES

- Preparatory work and co-organization of the Second Mediterranean Conference on Marine Turtles (Kemer, Turkey, 4-7 May 2005)

Secretariat-facilitated projects:

- Marine Turtle Information Mapping System: Indian Ocean - Australasian region (Phase II) (completed 2004)
- Tracing the migrations of Indian Marine Turtles: towards an integrated and collaborative conservation programme (in progress)
- Movements of Atlantic Leatherback turtles – steps toward by-catch reduction and trans-oceanic cooperation for conservation (in progress)
- Conservation of Sea Turtles along the coast of Peru (in progress)

Publications:

- Proceedings of the First Mediterranean Conference on Marine Turtles (Rome, 24-28 October 2001) (2003) (in coll. with Bern Convention and Barcelona Convention secretariats)

B. Other Meetings serviced by the Secretariat

Standing Committee

22. The Standing Committee met in Bonn three times during the reporting period, 17-18 July 2003, 22-25 June 2004 (partly in Berlin) and 21-22 April 2005. The issues discussed and the results of these meetings are covered in more detail in the relevant reports of the meetings, and in the Standing Committee Chair's verbal report to the COP. The Committee will meet immediately prior to the Conference of the Parties, on 20 November 2005, and the Chair will deliver his report to the Conference on Monday 21 November.

Scientific Council

23. The Scientific Council held its intersessional meeting in Glasgow, United Kingdom, from 31 March to 3 April 2004, at the kind invitation of Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH). The meeting was attended by 65 Councillors and observers, and several representatives of the CMS Secretariat. The Council's activities are summarised in the report of the meeting and will be elaborated by the Chairman of the Scientific Council, Dr.

Colin Galbraith, in his report to the Conference of the Parties. The Secretariat has been in regular communication with the Chairman and other relevant members of the Council throughout the triennium in order to advance the Council's work.

24. A workshop on the development of a Strategy for the CMS Scientific Council was held in Edinburgh on 27-28 November 2003, also at the kind invitation of SNH. About 12 people attended the workshop, including the ScC chair and vice-chair, other selected members of the ScC, the chair of the CMS Strategic Plan working group, representatives of the Secretariat and the workshop facilitator.

C. *Publicity and Promotional Activities*

25. Efforts to promote the Convention have continued, aided in part by the production of new information materials and presentations and/or written reports delivered at conferences in Africa, the Americas, central and eastern Europe, and Oceania. Secretariat staff attended on a selective basis meetings arranged by other international and national organisations in order to promote the Convention and related Agreements, to strengthen co-operation, and to consult with representatives of Parties, non-Parties and other organisations on matters of mutual concern.

26. The complete redesign of the CMS web site including a new domain name/URL (<http://www.cms.int>) corresponds to the modern institutional requirements for CMS to maintain a strong presence on the World Wide Web. The redesign of the CMS web site was approached from three perspectives: (a) enhancing the electronic availability of official CMS documents for future meetings; (b) enhancing Internet accessibility and user-friendliness, especially for countries where Internet access may be limited; and (c) promoting the work of the Convention amongst the CMS constituency and the general public.

27. The website is viewed as the primary document delivery mechanism for the Convention providing a readily accessible, cost-effective centralised repository for documents in lieu of hard copy mailings to save costs. The accessibility of the web site has been improved so that for example pages load more quickly even without broadband connections. In addition, it provides a new intro page and site map, a more concise navigation and a search function. User-friendliness has been considerably improved, as information can now be easily located. The aesthetically appealing presentation of this major information tool is the foundation of the Convention's corporate identity and the corporate design of the web sites of the Agreement Secretariats located in Bonn has been harmonised to highlighting institutional connectivity. Content has also been improved: The news section offers regular information on CMS activities and projects. A new and expanded map of CMS Parties on the Convention's web site shows the global coverage of the Convention organized by bio-geographic regions. Each regional map highlights CMS Parties and signatories. Relevant conference and meeting documents are also made available on the web site.

28. Although a part-time consultant undertook professional work in a most cost effective way, the continued maintenance and future expansion of the web site requires resources currently not available to the Secretariat. To partially overcome those shortcomings the CMS Secretariat, together with other co-located Agreements, have established an Outreach, Communication and Information Taskforce coordinated by the External Relations, Partnership and Media Unit, sharing personnel of CMS and Agreements to jointly advance work on outreach and communication of the Secretariat.

29. The Secretariat has continued production of a range of printed materials:

- Three issues (numbers 16-18) of the CMS Bulletin were circulated between July 2002 and November 2003, providing information on the latest developments in the Convention. The Bulletin is distributed in English, French and Spanish to approximately 1,200 interested governmental and non-governmental organizations and individuals. (The database maintained by the Secretariat contains nearly 3,500 records.) Since both costs and timeliness of the CMS Bulletin in hard copy was unsatisfactory, the Secretariat decided to replace it with a combination of the CMS Website and, from April 2005, an E-newsletter in English, French and Spanish. This provides for timely information that is also available on the web site. Distribution via e-mail has cut down substantially on costs for layout, printing and postal charges.

- A comprehensive Anniversary Report reflecting the achievements and milestone of the Convention was published in June 2004. This successful publication was distributed to different audiences in different occasions, including main meetings of MEAs. This comprehensive publication, commissioned by the recently retired Executive Secretary of CMS, will stand for some time to come as a definitive summary of our history, achievements and challenges.

30. On the occasion of its 25th Anniversary in June 2004 CMS and partners organized a series of events in Bonn, Berlin and Potsdam. The UNEP Executive Director and the former CMS Executive Secretary hosted an official ceremony in Berlin with high-ranking attendance from government officials and conservationists. A press conference ensured media coverage in the national and even international press. In the run up to the ceremony scientists, practitioners and politicians participated in a workshop to discuss how conservation goals and policies could be harmonised towards "best practice" schemes. "Migratory Species linking Ecosystems and Disciplines" was the topic of the workshop dealing with ecological, political and interdisciplinary issues. Results were made available in a publication online. The TUI AG hosted the workshop and arranged for a presentation on the Convention. The Museum Koenig organised a series of events in Bonn. Movies, panels of experts, activities for children and excursions on a wide range of migratory animals targeted the general public. A public panel discussion in the Museum focused on "Crossing Frontiers" – threats to migratory animals and their protection: 25 years Bonn Convention. 250 children presented the topic "Nature without frontiers", a programme organized by the Federal Ministry for the Environment and NABU in Potsdam. The 25th Anniversary proved to be a major success in increasing awareness of the Convention in Germany, as was shown by the successful press coverage and articles.

31. A permanent exhibit in Germany, as well as mobile exhibits in English, French and German displayed during conferences and UN-events, are used to introduce CMS to a wider audience. In January 2005, the Executive Secretary and the CMS French Focal Point jointly launched the first ever French version of the CMS exhibition during International Scientific Conference on "Biodiversity, Science and Governance", under patronage of French President, Mr. Jacques Chirac in Paris. The intention is that this exhibition and future publications and web productions will increase the outreach of CMS amongst Francophone countries. PowerPoint presentations help to familiarise a target audience on certain aspects of the Convention. Press releases on CMS events such as press conferences are distributed by the Regional United Nations Information Office (RUNIC) in Bonn. CMS also relies on UNEP's Information Unit for Conventions (UNEP/IUC) in Geneva and the Division of Communication and Public Information (DCPI/Nairobi) to elaborate topics and distribute them to the media.

32. The CMS Secretariat has also undertaken a number of initiatives, to be repeated annually, to celebrate UN Biodiversity Day. This year the CMS Secretariat and the Secretariats of the Agreements based in Bonn met with the children of the Independent Bonn International School to brief them about migratory animals, the threats they face and the work of the Convention to conserve them. It is planned that these initiatives be repeated every year on 22 May, trying to reach a wider audience of schoolchildren in Germany and identifying possible ways and means to include reference to biodiversity and migratory species in their curricula. Similarly, the CMS Secretariat regularly participates in UN Day celebrations on 24 October and the "Tolerance" initiative, by displaying the CMS booth and promotional material and meeting with the public.

33. As the 26th Standing Committee had recommended that the issue of the communications strategy be brought to the COP, a coherent communications strategy, which evaluates the information materials used by CMS, identifies gaps and overlaps, and devises new ways of reaching important target audiences, has been developed and submitted for approval to COP8 (UNEP/CMS/Res.8.8).

34. Among the other publications and reports produced and circulated by the Secretariat in hard copy and electronically on the web site during the triennium were:

- *Proceedings of the Seventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties* (Bonn, 2002);
- Reports of the 26th, 27th and 28th Meetings of the Standing Committee;
- Report of the 11th and 12th Meetings of the Scientific Council;
- Report of the 1st Meeting of the Signatory States of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of the Middle-European Population of the Great Bustard;

- Report of the Meeting to Conclude and Endorse the Proposed Central Asian Flyway Action Plan to Conserve Migratory Waterbirds and their Habitats;
- Report of the Meeting to Endorse the Proposed Western/Central Asian Site Network for Siberian Cranes (and other waterbirds);
- Numerous reports to other intergovernmental fora (eg. CBD, CITES, IWC, Ramsar, UNEP etc.);
- *List of National Focal Points* (latest edition August 2005) -- document UNEP/CMS/Inf.8.3;
- *List of Scientific Councillors* (latest edition September 2002) -- document UNEP/CMS/Inf.8.4;
- *List of Parties* (as of 1 November 2005) -- document UNEP/CMS/Inf.8.1;
- *Map of Parties and Countries participating in Agreements and MoUs* (as of 1 November 2005 – see Annex I);
- *List of common names* (in Latin, English, French, Spanish and German) of species included in the Appendices (latest edition March 2004) B document UNEP/CMS/Inf.8.9;
- *List of Range States* of species included in CMS Appendix I and II -- document UNEP/CMS/Inf.8.2;
- *Summary sheets of the Agreements concluded under the Convention* (in English, French and Spanish: latest version August 2005) Document UNEP/CMS/Inf.8.10;
- Brochure: *Convention on Migratory Species* (English, French, Spanish, German, Russian);
- Brochure: *Special feature on CMS with focus on marine migratory species in IUCN's World Conservation 1/2004*;
- Brochure: *Conserving Cetaceans* (published by WDCCS in collaboration with CMS, ASCOBANS and ACCOBAMS);
- *25 Years of Journeys* (Anniversary Report available in English, French and Spanish) (2004)
- *Technical Series Reports No. 8*;
Proceedings of the second regional seminar on the conservation and restoration of Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes (2003);
- *Technical Series Reports No. 9*;
Report of the Second workshop on the Biology and Conservation of Small Cetaceans and Dugongs in South-East Asia (2005);
- *Technical Series Reports No. 10*;
Conservation Measures for the Siberian Crane – Third Edition (2005);
- *Review of Small Cetaceans. Distribution, Behaviour, Migration and Threats* (2005);
- Leaflet: *Why should Small Island Development States join CMS?* (May 2005);
- Poster on Marine Turtles to support Year of the Turtle 2006 with financial support of Manfred-Hermesen-Stiftung and the government of Mauritius.

D. Outreach material at COP

35. Thanks to the generous contributions of some CMS Parties, the Secretariat was able to produce publicity and promotional material for the COP, which will also assist delegates in their work during the conference, as follows:

- Production of the “On the move to 2010” memory stick, containing all the Scientific Council and COP documents, which will facilitate access and distribution of documents to delegates, limiting the costs of reproduction and paper (financial support provided by the Government of Italy);
- Production of the video “On the move to 2010”, to be launched at the COP and provided to all COP delegates in the memory stick package. It is envisaged that a shorter version of the video will be featured on Lufthansa flights and main environmental TV channels (printing of the video funded by the Government of Italy);
- Production of the “On the move to 2010” briefcase, containing main information about the conference and other promotional material and the “On the move to 2010” pen (financial support provided by the Government of Monaco);
- ‘CMS in Africa’ poster and postcards, to mark the strong presence of CMS in Africa and the venue of the 8th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
- The CMS 2006 Calendar, featuring main CMS species and dates of important biodiversity meetings.

E. Data and Knowledge Management

36. As part of the CMS Information Management Plan, the Global Register of Migratory Species (GROMS) project started in 1998. It is a reference list of migratory vertebrate species within a relational database, together with distribution maps in GIS format, reflecting current results of scientific research, providing information on the species, population data and a comprehensive bibliography of more than 5,800 entries. GROMS draws on data from several other information systems, and it co-operates with other systems, including Clearing House Mechanism, Global Biodiversity Information Facility, Species 2000 (especially "Fishbase"), IUCN / SSC (2000 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species), UNEP-WCMC, Biodiversity Conservation Information System, Wetlands International and the African Mammal Database (AMD). GROMS contains now multilingual lists of around 4,350 migratory vertebrate species in digital format, including their threat status according to the 2000 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, and their protection status by other conventions, such as CITES. It can contribute to complete biological data and in obtaining more information on the conservation status of selected species. Reference to GIS-maps enables an automatic calculation of Range States. CMS Secretariat has recently undertaken an evaluation of the GROMS. Results and recommendations are contained in documents UNEP/CMS/Conf.8.12 and UNEP/CMS/Rec.8.9.

37. COP7 instructed the Secretariat to further implement a CMS Information System, in line with Resolution 6.5 of the 6th Conference of the Parties in 1999: especially, the Secretariat should further develop a flexible CMS Information System, responding to identified needs and to the feedback provided by users of the System, provide the technical capacity to facilitate the transfer of knowledge of the CMS Information System to developing countries, in order to support these countries in their implementation of the Convention more effectively; and take the lead in a process of evaluation of the information needs and appropriate generation and dissemination mechanism. The progress made by the Secretariat is presented in detail in document UNEP/CMS/Conf.8.13.

IV. Liaison with Governments and Agreement Secretariats, and other Organisations

A. Governments (CMS Parties)

38. Apart from implementing the Convention on a national level, a number of Parties have supported the Secretariat in its work and have actively contributed to the further development of the Convention during the reporting period. This support may take the form of playing a lead role in the development of new CMS Agreements, hosting meetings, chairing subsidiary bodies or working groups, sponsoring or conducting special project activities, proposing the listing of new species on the Appendices, providing funds to facilitate the participation of delegates in meetings, and assisting in efforts to recruit new Parties. It would be impossible to mention all such contributions here; some are appropriately acknowledged in other conference papers or are reported in national reports and in the framework of existing CMS Agreements. More detailed information on earmarked contributions of CMS Parties can be found in Annex II of document UNEP/CMS/Conf.8.18. Nevertheless, under the headings described above, it is worth mentioning the key contributions from CMS Parties since COP7:

39. Hosting of CMS meetings / Development of CMS Agreements (does not include meetings of subsidiary bodies of CMS Agreements):

- Austria (First Meeting of the Signatory States of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of the Middle-European Population of the Great Bustard, Illmitz, September 2004)
- Australia (First Meeting on Dugong Conservation in the Indian Ocean and South-East Asian Region, Bangkok, July 2005; Third Workshop on CMS and the First Drafting Group Meeting on a Memorandum of Understanding for the Conservation of Cetaceans and their Habitats in the Pacific Islands Region, Nadi, July 2005; Second Workshop on CMS and Marine Mammal Conservation in the South Pacific, Apia, March 2004);
- Belarus (Meeting to Finalise the Memorandum of Understanding and Action Plan concerning Conservation Measures for the Aquatic Warbler, Minsk, April 2002);
- Germany (26th-28th Standing Committee, Bonn 17-18 July 2003, Bonn and Berlin 22-24 June 2004, and Bonn 21-22 April 2005)

- India (Meeting to Conclude and Endorse the Proposed Central Asian Flyway Action Plan to Conserve Migratory Waterbirds and their Habitats, New Delhi, June 2005; Meeting to Endorse the Proposed Western/Central Asian Site Network for Siberian Cranes (and other Waterbirds) New Delhi, June 2005);
- Morocco (Second Regional Workshop on the Conservation and Restoration of Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes, Agadir, May 2003);
- New Zealand (Third Workshop on CMS and the First Drafting Group Meeting on a Memorandum of Understanding for the Conservation of Cetaceans and their Habitats in the Pacific Islands Region, Nadi, July 2005; Second Workshop on CMS and Marine Mammal Conservation in the South Pacific, Apia, March 2004);
- United Kingdom (Workshop on the development of a Scientific Council Strategy, Edinburgh, 2003; Workshop on the CMS Strategic Plan, London, 2005; 12th Scientific Council Meeting, Glasgow, 2004).

40. Proposals for amending the CMS Appendices: The Secretariat received proposals prepared by Argentina, Bulgaria, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, France, Kenya, Malta, Monaco, Paraguay, Spain, Tajikistan, Ukraine, and United Kingdom.

B. Agreement Secretariats

41. Arrangements for provision of secretariat services to Agreements developed under the auspices of CMS differ according to the particular circumstances and time frame under which the Agreement in question was concluded. Three of the Agreements are serviced by independent secretariats co-located with the CMS Secretariat in Bonn and integrated in the UNEP/CMS Agreements Unit: the *Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds* (AEWA), the *Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats* (EUROBATS), and the *Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas* (ASCOBANS).

42. The *Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area* (ACCOBAMS) is serviced by a secretariat located in and provided by Monaco, while the *Agreement on the Conservation of Seals in the Wadden Sea* is serviced by the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat located in Wilhelmshaven, northern Germany. Australia provides the secretariat for the *Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels* (ACAP) in Canberra. Unlike the other secretariats mentioned above, none of these is administered by UNEP.

43. Finally, the CMS Secretariat provides *de facto* secretariat services for several Memoranda of Understanding concluded between 1993 and 2002- notably those concerning the Siberian Crane, Slender-billed Curlew, Great Bustard, Marine Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa and Bukhara Deer.

44. More detailed information on each of these instruments and interagency collaboration can be found in other documents before the meeting, including UNEP/CMS/Conf.8.10 and UNEP/CMS/Conf. 8.22.

C. Intergovernmental Organisations

45. Most noteworthy of the synergistic linkages that the CMS Secretariat has sought to establish and maintain with various intergovernmental bodies during the present reporting period. Among the Memoranda of Cooperation that already existed at the time of COP7 are those with CBD (concluded in 1996 and reinforced by a CBD-CMS Joint Work Programme adopted in 2002), the Memorandum of Understanding with the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (in place since 1997, and reinforced in 2004 by a CMS-AEWA-Ramsar Joint Work Programme) and the International Whaling Commission (since 2000). On the occasion of COP7, Memoranda of Understanding with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and with the UNESCO Man and Biosphere Programme and the World Heritage Convention were signed. In September 2003 a Memorandum of Cooperation has been signed with the Convention to Combat Desertification.

46. The Secretariat continues to have close working relations with various substantive offices of the United Nations Environment Programme in Nairobi, in particular, the Division of Environmental Conventions,

Division of GEF Coordination, Environmental Law Branch, Division of Early Warning and Assessment (DEWA), as well as the Cambridge-based World Conservation Monitoring Centre. Areas of common interest include: support for global initiatives related to marine turtles, marine mammals and great apes; GEF project development, with a focus on wetlands and waterbirds; capacity-building and needs assessments; compliance and enforcement and information management, contribution to the preparation of the GEO-4 Report. As regards this last initiative, a member of the Secretariat has been invited by DEWA to be one of the authors of the chapter on Biodiversity. The Secretariat also assisted DEWA in the organization of a GEO-4 MEAs Consultation Meeting, held in Bonn, 5-6 October 2005.

47. In addition, the CMS Secretariat has also set out to strengthen relationships with UNEP Regional Offices throughout the world. For example, UNEP's Regional Offices Asia/Pacific, Europe and West Asia very generously financially supported participants to attend the Meeting to Conclude and Endorse the Proposed Central Asian Flyway Action Plan to Conserve Migratory Waterbirds and their Habitats in New Delhi, June 2005. The UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean has assisted CMS promotional activities at various regional meetings where the CMS Secretariat has been unable to attend.

48. In the European region, cooperation in specific fields of common interest has been assured with smaller regional conventions, such as the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) and the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean, particularly through its associated Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas. In the Caribbean region, the Secretariat is currently working at a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Cartagena Convention in the Caribbean Region. In the Pacific, the Secretariat is working at a Memorandum of Cooperation with SPREP. It is envisaged the both MoCs will be signed at COP-8.

49. The 7th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties of CBD (February 2004) decided on the implementation of a Biodiversity Liaison Group (BLG), consisting of representatives of the secretariats of the five international biodiversity related conventions: the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, and the World Heritage Convention (WHC). The idea behind BLG is that, while recognizing that each of these conventions has its own specific objectives and commitments, the target of achieving by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss requires synergy between the conventions and a reduction of duplication of efforts. Up to now, BLG has held four meetings and the progress in cooperation and creating synergies has also been reviewed by a CBD Working Group in September 2005. CMS hosted the fourth meeting of the BLG in Bonn on 4 October 2005. The goal of the enhanced cooperation within BLG is to add value to existing efforts, not to homogenize initiatives or focus only on collaborative approaches. More information on this innovative cooperative arrangement can be found in documents Conf. 8.15 and Res. 8.11). The Group has prepared and released joint letters and statements delivered at main conferences and events (e.g. a joint letter for the Millennium Development Goals summit, a statement to the Conference of the Parties of the Convention to Combat Desertification, etc.).

D. International Non-Governmental Organizations

50. CMS has kept up and intensified its close cooperation several INGOs. Since 1997 the cooperation with Wetlands International has been formalized through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding and a joint work programme between WI, CMS and AEWA was signed last year in Edinburgh, which subsequently has been the basis for many fruitful collaborations. In 2003 a consistent programmatic framework for this collaboration has been defined in the form of a Joint Work Programme among CMS, AEWA and Wetlands International. In 2003, a Memorandum of Cooperation was concluded with IUCN – The World Conservation Union. We are also pleased to announce that the long envisaged Memorandum of Cooperation with BirdLife International was signed in 2004, thereby strengthening their role in CMS project implementation.

51. At present, more agreements are under preparation. Also, a Letter of Agreement is being worked on with the UNEP and UNESCO GRASP Secretariat, the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (IRSNB), and the International Gorilla Conservation Programme (IGCP), focusing on conservation actions for Gorillas.

CMS Secretariat is also working to develop partnership agreements with a number of organizations, notably the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC), the Global Nature Fund (GNF), the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), and the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society (WDCS). Some or all these Partnerships Agreements are expected to be signed at COP-8.

E. International Processes

52. In response to Resolution 7.9 (Cooperation with Other Bodies and Processes), the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) Board welcomed CMS as a partner to the initiative and invited CMS to appoint representatives to the MA Board. The Board concluded that CMS and the MA shared a mutuality of interests. Furthermore, within the limits of the MA's conceptual design, the chairs of the MA Assessment Panel concluded that the MA could provide CMS information on (a) habitat extent, quality, and trends; (b) the forces of change, e.g., pollution, climate change, human needs and pressures on species; and (c) how ecosystem changes affect species, including migratory species (www.millenniumassessment.org).

53. The CMS Scientific Council Chair, CMS Secretariat and MA Secretariat worked actively to build links to the process. For example, a joint invitation was distributed to CMS Scientific Councillors inviting their participation. Five migratory species experts (two of them CMS Appointed Councillors) became involved as contributors and reviewers to the global assessment. At the sub-global level, contacts were made with assessment leaders requesting any outcomes with respect to specially prepared lists of migratory species found within the sub-global assessment project areas (www.millenniumassessment.org/en/Products.Subglobal.aspx). The MA Secretariat provided updates on MA progress to the Scientific Council at its 12th Meeting and the CMS Secretariat provided extensive comments on various sections of the draft global assessment. At its 13th Meeting, the Scientific Council will consider how the MA's outputs could be best used by CMS.

54. The CMS Secretariat is actively participating in the Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI). Launched in 2003 at a meeting in Chile, WHMSI is an initiative designed to follow-up on a request by leaders of the Americas to coordinate a strategic approach to migratory species. The meeting was attended by representatives from national wildlife agencies, intergovernmental organisations and non-governmental organisations, identified a list of priority needs for the region and created a draft tools matrix. The meeting also created an interim steering committee and invited CMS to sit as a member. Its first meeting took place in Costa Rica in July 2004. The Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Conference "Hands across the Hemisphere: Helping People to Help Wildlife" will be held in Costa Rica, in January 2006. Its objectives will be to update activities since the 2003 conference in Chile, to take further steps towards establishing a permanent forum for the conservation of migratory species and, perhaps, biological diversity more broadly, and to explore regional and sub-regional collaboration capacity building, major hemispheric priority.

55. The CMS Secretariat also participated in the Steering Committee of the Conference 'Biodiversity Science and Governance (Paris, January 2005). In this capacity, the representatives of the Secretariat attended preparatory meetings prior to the Conference and the meetings of the Committee that finalized the final statement of the Conference. As a follow-up of the Conference, an International Steering Committee (ISC) was established to launch an international multi-stakeholder consultative process to assess the need for and feasibility of an International Mechanism of Scientific Expertise on Biodiversity (IMOSEB), to which the CMS Secretariat was invited as a member.

56. The CMS Secretariat also participated as a member of the Scientific and Programme Committee of the International Flyway Conference 'Waterbirds around the World' (Edinburgh, 3-8 April 2004).

57. The CMS Secretariat participated in the First Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Protected Areas, which was held in Montecatini, Italy from 13 to 17 June 2005. CMS stressed its commitment to and role in the implementation of the programme of work on protected areas and, in particular the review of the potential for regional cooperation under the Convention on Migratory Species with a view to linking protected area networks across international boundaries and potentially beyond national jurisdiction through the establishment of migratory corridors for key species.
