



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

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REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON TERRESTRIAL MAMMALS Bergen, 17 November 2011

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1. **Introduction by the Chair**
2. **Review of ongoing Concerted and Cooperative Actions**
 - 2.1. **Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna Concerted Action (CA)**

During the last triennium, the work on the CA mostly centred on two main areas: one north of the Sahara, in Tunisia; and the other in the centre and south of the Sahara, in Niger, where the last viable populations of large Sahelo-Saharan vertebrates survive in the wild.

In Tunisia, the most significant progress of the last three years have been:

- a) continued support to meta-population management of Scimitar-horned Oryx and Addax in the six southern protected areas, and development of a mechanism for the ongoing monitoring of populations of Addax in Djebil and Senghar National Parks;
- b) permanent monitoring of populations of Scimitar-horned Oryx in Sidi Toui and Oued Dekouk National Parks;

- c) additional surveys focusing on Slender-horned Gazelle and Dorcas Gazelle in Senghar National Park; and
- e) in addition, the General Directorate of Forests in Tunisia initiated a new programme of conservation and restoration for Cuvier's Gazelle along the Tunisian Dorsale, in implementation of the Tunisian Strategy for the Conservation of Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes developed with CMS in 2002. The General Directorate of Forests has just produced an excellent set of brochures on the Tunisian Protected Areas.

Since 2009, the most significant part of the CMS Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna (SSM) programme, in terms of in-situ conservation of species, has been the major effort undertaken towards the conservation of the Termit-Tin Toumma area in Niger. There is a clear political will to see the area officially designated and effectively managed and the gazetting of the protected area is already embedded within the national programme. In Niger, the CA benefits from a very good field team, working in close association with the Ministry of Water, Environment and Fight against Desertification (MEELCD), and with the CA's main partner, the Sahara Conservation Fund (SCF). The Termit-Tin Toumma project focuses on:

- a) the development of the future Termit-Tin Toumma National Reserve (RNCNTT);
- b) the preservation of the Sahelo-Saharan fauna of the region, especially the last viable populations of Addax and Dama Gazelle in the world;
- c) the establishment of ecological inventories and monitoring;
- d) the collection of biological and socio-economic data on the area;
- e) the involvement of local pastoralist communities, including employing them as eco-guards to provide surveillance of the area; and
- f) initiating community development projects.

All this work was made possible thanks to funding from the FFEM (Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial) from 2003 to 2010, and from 2007 to 2012 from the European Commission.

Next steps for the coming triennium:

- A Third Meeting of the Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna Range States is a top priority and financial resources must be identified with the assistance of the COP (as outlined in Resolution 10.16).
- At that meeting, a CMS instrument on the conservation and restoration of Sahelo-Saharan megafauna is expected to be signed (see also document UNEP/CMS/Resolution 10.16 on priorities for agreements).
- Further support for existing initiatives undertaken by some of the range states such as Morocco and Senegal.
- Fundraising for the third phase of the Termit-TinToumma project.
- Initiating work in new parts of the range of Sahelo-Saharan species, especially in Ethiopia.

2.2. Central Eurasian Aridland Concerted Action

The Working Group (WG) was informed of developments that have taken place during the triennium:

- Extension of the area to include the hot deserts of south-western Asia, including the Arabian Peninsula, was agreed through several informal meetings conducted during

COP9, chaired by Syria and attended by Jordan and Yemen. Saudi Arabia indicated that it did not wish to participate in the Concerted Action.

- The Focal Point Councillors have not at this stage envisaged any instrument other than a CA.
- Work has been done in the preparation of an Action Plan and building up the accompanying knowledge base. In this context two presentations were made to the WG: the Focal Point Councillor for Mongolia presented a review of the barriers to migration (a case study in Mongolia) (ScC17/Inf.23), and the Secretariat presented a draft Action Plan focused on a high priority area within the CA's scope, that of Central Asia and Mongolia (ScC17/Doc.13). The Secretariat intended to stimulate discussions on the prioritization of the geographical and taxonomic scope. The members of the WG felt that establishing priorities focused on actions, species or areas was a good way forward but that the overall scope of the CA should not be narrowed down.
- The participants to the meeting reiterated the desirability of having a first meeting of the CA Range States. They felt this was now urgent and all actors should endeavour to organize it, preferably in Mongolia in August 2012.
- The WG recommends to the Scientific Council that the CA should continue.

2.3 Other existing Concerted and Cooperative Actions:

Cooperative Action for the Elephant in Central Africa: the WG considers that the conservation status of the Central African Elephant is very unfavourable. The WG encourages the Scientific Council with the help of the Secretariat, the Range States' Councillors and competent NGOs to explore ways in which the situation could be improved. Facilitating the consultations with the Central African Elephant Range States was considered to be a good option.

CA for Gorillas: the WG notes that there will be a meeting of the Gorilla Agreement on 26-27 November. The Scientific Council expects to receive the report after that meeting.

CA for Southern Huemul: the WG noted the Focal Point Councillor could not continue for health reasons. The WG thanks the Councillor for his commitment and actions over the years and wishes him well. The Secretariat reported that an agreement had been signed between Chile and Argentina, and that progress was being made on the agreement. The coordinator for Terrestrial Mammals will try to identify a new Focal Point Councillor.

3. Other actions to be considered by the WG:

The Secretariat presented the *Review on Terrestrial Mammals* (Conf.10.44 and Inf.10.15). It was noted that among the top priorities identified by WCMC was a continuation of the Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna CA and the Central Eurasian Aridland CA, and also a Sub-Saharan Megafauna CA. There was an exchange of views on the last of these, and a consensus was reached that the possibility of such a megafauna conservation initiative should be seriously investigated. The Councillor for Kenya accepted to serve as Focal Point Councillor for this activity. The Central African Elephant Cooperative Action could, if this initiative materializes, be integrated in it.

Tiger and other Asian Big Cats: the Secretariat gave a short report on progress made in follow up of the aspects of Rec 9.3. which concerns tigers. Interest by CMS Parties to develop a new CMS instrument was limited. Most big cats have conservation-significant populations within the area of the Central Eurasian Aridland CA, and five endangered large cats, the Snow

Leopard, the Arabian Leopard, the Persian and Caucasian Leopard, the Asian Cheetah and the Asian Lion are endemic to the area of the CA.

The WG examined Draft Resolution 10.23 on Concerted and Cooperative Actions *Species to be considered for Concerted and Cooperative Actions during the Triennium*: the WG notes that the 16th Meeting of the Scientific Council recommended the addition of the Barbary Sheep, and further recommends the addition of *Ovis ammon*, the Argali sheep, subject to its inclusion on Appendix II.

4. Proposals for amendments to Appendices I and II of the Convention:

The WG strongly endorses the proposal to include *Ovis ammon* in Appendix II, and thanks Tajikistan and Kazakhstan for having made the proposal. The WG suggests that the listing should be extended to wild, native populations included under *Ovis aries*.

5. Any other business:

Wild Europe:

Wild Europe is an umbrella organization for a number of European conservation NGOs, and a representative attended the WG as an observer.

Wild Europe considers that Europe remains the only major region where there is no overall CMS strategy, yet there are substantial opportunities for protection and restoration of a network of large wild areas of natural habitat and process with intact ecosystems.

Wild Europe thus proposed the idea that CMS develop a strategy for Europe, involving an assessment of opportunity followed, as appropriate, by recommendations for an Action Plan. This could be undertaken in tandem with existing endeavours in this field including the Wild Europe initiative.

Further notes provided by Wild Europe:

- in 2010 the CBD identified 200,000 km² of marginal land where restoration of habitats and their species could contribute significantly to global conservation objectives. Some 30-50 million hectares of farmland is currently abandoned, and subsidies from the CAP are likely to continue falling.
- the 2011 EU Biodiversity Strategy calls for restoration of 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems by 2020.
- the European Parliament in 2009 voted by a majority of 538 to 19 for improved protection and funding for wilderness areas of natural habitat and process.
- a range of economic, social and environmental attributes from non-extractive activities in these large areas of natural ecosystems offers significant benefit to local communities and landholders as well as society in general.
- such areas can also help address the impact of climate change, through enabling mitigation and adaptation, and can offer a higher level of resilience to invasive species.
- if Europe is seen to be restoring a network of large natural areas, and doing so moreover for economic and social as well as conservation motives, this sends powerful messages to other parts of the world with much larger and more pristine ecosystems where alternative forms of land use are as yet undecided.