



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme



THIRD MEETING OF THE SIGNATORIES OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE MIDDLE-EUROPEAN POPULATION OF THE GREAT BUSTARD (*Otis tarda*)

8-12 April 2013, Szarvas, Hungary

CMS/GB/MoS3/Doc.5.1
Agenda Item 5.0

REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

1. It is a general principle that the CMS Secretariat acts as the secretariat for species Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) concluded under CMS auspices. The CMS Secretariat acts as Secretariat for the Great Bustard MoU pursuant to MoU paragraph 1(e). It also acts as the MoU Depository (MoU Paragraph 19).
2. This note provides a brief overview of the Secretariat's responsibilities as Depository and provides a summary of the status of signatures to the MoU and the Secretariat's recruitment efforts since the MoU's entry into effect and its efforts to generate an up-to-date list of contact points.
3. This note also provides a summary of relevant outcomes of the Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP10) to CMS. It highlights the importance of the process for the development of the future Migratory Species Strategic Plan for the period 2015-2023.

Status of Signatures and Recruitment Efforts to Date

4. The CMS Secretariat undertakes a number of activities as the MoU's depository. The primary activity is to keep track of the status of the MoU. It keeps the original version of the MoU on file, notifies the signatories of new signatures and transmits certified copies of the MoU to the various Signatory States and organisations that have signed the MoU.
5. Document CMS/GB/MoS3/Inf.3 notes that as of 15 January 2013 there are 13 State Signatories to the MoU. The last signature was that of the Czech Republic on 18 February 2008. In addition, four organisations have signed the MoU as collaborators.
6. The CMS Secretariat is active in recruitment efforts to increase membership in the MoU. It regularly requests the three remaining Range States to determine their ability to sign the MoU. Of the original sixteen Ranges States eligible to sign the MoU only three have not yet signed: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Poland and Slovenia.

For reasons of economy, this document is printed in a limited number, and will not be distributed at the meeting. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copy to the meeting and not to request additional copies.

List of Designated National Contact Points

7. MoU paragraph 5 invites Signatory States to officially designate an authority or an authorised scientist as a national contact point for all matters relating to the MoU's implementation and to communicate their name and address to the Secretariat.

8. On the date when this document was finalised, twelve of the thirteen Signatories had provided the Secretariat with the name of their national contact points (document: CMS/GB/MoS3/Inf.4). Should there be any updates to this document, the Secretariat requests the Signatories to communicate the change as soon as possible.

9. The Secretariat appeals to the Signatory State that has not yet done so to please designate a national contact point and provide the information to the Secretariat as soon as possible. This should be done in writing from the Ministry competent for the Great Bustard's conservation and management.

CMS COP10 Outcomes Relevant or of Interest

10. Attached in **Appendix 1** is a summary of relevant outcomes of the Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP10) to CMS, which took place on 20-25 November 2011 at Bergen, Norway. These include resolutions on subjects such as; the impacts of power-lines, poisoning and climate change on migratory birds, the role of ecological networks, guidelines for integrating migratory species into national biodiversity plans and plans for a new CMS website and online reporting system.

CMS Strategic Plan 2015–2023

11. One of the major COP10 decisions concerned the establishment of an inter-sessional Working Group (WG) to develop the future CMS Strategic Plan 2015-2023. The WG met on 5-6 November 2012 to review the preliminary findings of the process, and there was agreement that the future Plan will be drafted for *migratory species* in general – as a Migratory Species Strategic Plan it will therefore not only support CMS instruments, but will also serve as an overarching framework for all of those working towards the conservation of migratory species. Thus it will be based on the approach used in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity. It will also use the Aichi Biodiversity Targets as a basis.

12. A new Strategic Plan will provide a clear, common agenda for all to work on. The whole CMS Family, including the Great Bustards MoU Signatories, are encouraged to provide their views to ensure that the Strategic Plan is aligned with the mandate of the various instruments. The first draft of the Strategic Plan is expected to be available for public consultation in April 2013, and will be placed on this web link: www.cms.int/bodies/StC/strategic_plan_2015_2023_wg/strpln_wg_mainpage.htm.

13. Attached in **Appendix 2** is a short report on the First Meeting of the Strategic Plan Working Group, 5-6 Nov 2012, and an outline of the concept for developing the future Strategic Plan for Migratory Species.

Action requested:

The Meeting is requested to:

- a. Take note of the Secretariat's report.
- b. Request representatives of non-Signatory States eligible to sign the MoU to inform the Meeting of their Government's intentions vis-à-vis signature of the MoU.
- c. Take note of the list of designated national contact points.
- d. Request representatives to provide updated contact information at the meeting, in writing, if not been already forwarded to the Secretariat.
- e. Invite Signatories that have not yet designated a national contact point to provide the information to the Secretariat as soon as possible.
- f. Take note of the provisions included in the CMS Resolutions, including the strategic plan process, and engage with their implementation as appropriate.

Appendix 1: CMS COP10 Outcomes Relevant or of Interest to the Great Bustard MoU

1. The Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP10) to CMS took place on 20-25 November 2011 at Bergen, Norway. Important decisions are reflected in the 29 Resolutions adopted by the Conference.

2. This appendix outlines the key outcomes from COP10 of relevance to the Great Bustards MoU, and highlights the importance of the process for the development of the future Migratory Species Strategic Plan for the period 2015-2023.

Guidance on Global Flyway Conservation & Options for Policy Arrangements – Res 10.10

3. This Resolution considers options for future policy arrangements and defines priority actions. It calls upon the Secretariat, in collaboration with Parties and relevant international organizations (subject to the availability of funds) to organize regional workshops aimed at sharing best practice and lessons learnt, and to promote flyway conservation and policy options.

Power Lines and Migratory Birds - Resolution 10.11

4. CMS Parties welcomed the *'Review of the Conflict between Migratory Birds and Electricity Power Grids in the African-Eurasian Region'* (UNEP/CMS/Conf.10.29/Rev.2)¹ and noted with concern that within the region tens of millions of migratory birds are killed annually as a result of electrocution and collision, and that many of these birds are internationally protected.

Standardized Nomenclature of Birds Listed in the CMS Appendices - Resolution 10.13

5. The COP reviewed tabled proposals and tasked the Chair of the Scientific Council to liaise with the scientific advisory bodies of the other biodiversity-related Conventions, and relevant organizations, to explore the possibility of adopting a single nomenclature and taxonomic reference for birds, and to make recommendations to COP11 in 2014.

Migratory Species Conservation in the Light of Climate Change - Resolution 10.19

6. There was also recognition at COP10 of the increasing need for Parties and Signatories to CMS instruments to, for instance, promote timely conservation measures where migration patterns have changed due to climate change, develop and implement monitoring regimes for trans-boundary range shifts and analyse the impact of climate change on migratory species.

Minimizing the Risk of Poisoning to Migratory Birds - Resolution 10.26

7. As mandated by this Resolution, the CMS Secretariat has established a Working Group (WG) on combating poisoning of migratory birds. The WG is tasked with undertaking a detailed assessment of the problem and to recommend suitable responses to CMS COP11. The Working Group will deal with poisons (including aquatic poisons) affecting wildlife.

The Role of Ecological Networks in the Conservation of Migratory Species - Resolution 10.3

8. The COP recognized the importance of a network approach in the implementation of existing CMS instruments and initiatives. Parties asked the CMS Secretariat and the Scientific Council to identify, within

¹ http://www.cms.int/bodies/COP/cop10/docs_and_inf_docs/doc_29_electro_review_e.pdf

the CMS Family of instruments, the current and potential future use of ecological network concepts and approaches and to conduct a strategic review to assess how major protected area systems and initiatives aimed at promoting ecological networks address the needs of migratory species. The CMS Secretariat is in the process of compiling existing information and case studies and at the same time is actively undertaking to raise funds to assist with further work, e.g. research potential new sources of information; analyse the data collected; identify gaps in knowledge and provide advice and guidance on next steps.

CMS Strategic Plan 2015–2023 - Resolution 10.5

9. One of the major COP decisions concerned the establishment of an inter-sessional Working Group (WG) to develop the future CMS Strategic Plan 2015-2023 (as outlined in the main document).

Capacity Building Strategy (2012-2014) - Resolution 10.6

10. The Resolution emphasizes the importance of increased cooperation within the CMS Family with a view to developing tools that would strengthen the capacity of Parties and Signatories to CMS instruments. Earlier this year, the European Commission² sponsored the project titled '*Effective Implementation of CMS Family Instruments across Various Regions & Languages through Capacity Building*' for the period 2012–2014. Currently, steps are being taken to develop a manual and an interactive e-learning tool for both the National Focal Points and Contact Points for the CMS instruments.

Outreach and Communication Issues - Resolution 10.7

Web-based database and new CMS Family website

11. This Resolution recognizes the need to modernize and streamline the Convention's information sharing capacity. One of the activities foreseen is the development of a new CMS Family website. The first step has been taken by contracting a Consultant to build the database which will form the foundation for the new Website. This will provide a platform for all of the CMS Family instruments to utilise in the future.

Online Reporting System

12. An Online Reporting System (ORS) has been developed by UNEP-WCMC in close collaboration with the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) to streamline the national reporting process, make it more efficient for the countries and to provide the basis for easier analysis of datasets. The ORS was successfully tested for the AEWA reporting cycle to its 5th Meeting of Parties in May 2012. Anticipating the potential future use of the system by CMS and its instruments, the ORS has been designed as a tool for the whole CMS Family.

Guidelines on the Integration of Migratory Species into NBSAPs – Resolution 10.18

13. The COP acknowledged the importance of integrating measures to conserve migratory species into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and during implementation of national biodiversity targets. The Resolution requests Parties to make use of the relevant Guidelines (UNEP/CMS/Conf.10.27³) which should also assist Signatories to the Great Bustards MoU with including Great Bustard issues into NBSAPs.

² Funds came from the '*The Thematic Programme for Environment and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources including Energy (ENRTP) Strategic Cooperation Agreement (SCA) between the European Commission - DG Environment and UNEP*'.

³ http://www.cms.int/bodies/COP/cop10/docs_and_inf_docs/doc_27_guidelines_nbsap_e.pdf

Future Structure and Strategies of CMS and CMS Family - Resolution 10.9

14. This Resolution lists a set of activities according to priorities assigned by the Parties:

- Alignment with international environmental governance reform.
- Improved partnership working, which foresees closer collaboration with other MEAs, IGOs, NGOs and the private sector.
- Enhancing scientific research and information, e.g. in connection with the development of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).
- Enhancing communication and seeking opportunities to develop awareness of CMS and CMS Family, e.g. through a redesign of the website.
- Carry out a global gap analysis at the Convention level and to assess resources appropriateness.
- Coordinated strategic plans for the CMS Family.
- Restructuring of the Scientific Council to maximize expertise and knowledge capacity.
- Identifying opportunities for cooperation and coordination at the local and regional level through the creation of synergies based on geography, to be achieved by means of greater regional presence through coordinators with assistance from UNEP, NGOs, Parties and MEAs.
- Harmonization and interoperability of information management and reporting systems where appropriate and applicable for the CMS Family.
- Strengthening the coordination and servicing of MoUs, by ensuring appropriate staffing levels of the CMS Agreements Unit.
- Seek opportunities to coordinate meetings between institutions, working groups and across the CMS Family instruments.
- Actions to prioritize the growth of CMS and the CMS Family.
- Seeking opportunities to expand and develop capacity-building across the CMS Family, e.g. by CMS providing centralized related services.
- Seeking opportunities to expand and enhance fundraising activities, by coordinating with partners and stakeholders.
- Enhanced collaboration between CMS agreements, by (a) cooperation and coordination between agreement programmes and projects based on species clustering, thematic issues or geography as appropriate, and (b) if appropriate, cooperation and coordination between agreement Secretariats e.g. based on species clustering or on geography.
- Monitoring of implementation.

15. For each of these activities, the Resolution specifies short-term and medium to long-term actions to be taken. Short-term actions are to be addressed in the period 2012–2014 and will be funded from the core CMS budget, voluntary contributions from Parties, or donations from sponsors.

16. Many of these activities concern current actions in which the CMS Secretariat, CMS Agreements and MoUs and partner organizations have already invested considerable effort. CMS Parties effectively confirmed that these efforts are in line with their priorities, and provided guidance as to the next steps to be taken.

17. An overview of progress made by the CMS Secretariat in the implementation of this Resolution was presented to the 40th CMS Standing Committee Meeting in November 2012 (UNEP/CMS/StC40/13). MoU Secretariats or Coordinating Units will be requested to provide input to similar reports to be presented to future meetings.

Appendix 2 - Statement from CMS on the Strategic Plan Process

Process for developing the future Strategic Plan for Migratory Species **Report of the 1st Meeting of the Strategic Plan Working Group, 5-6 Nov 2012**

Background

The Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) held in November 2011, endorsed [Resolution 10.5](#), which established a Working Group to draft a new CMS Strategic Plan for the period 2015-2023.

A final draft strategic plan is to be presented to CMS COP11 in 2014.

Each CMS region elected members to the Strategic Plan Working Group (SPWG). The Chairs of the CMS Standing Committee and the CMS Scientific Council are *ex-officio* members. CMS partners – Secretariats of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) - and CMS experts are welcome to contribute substantively to the Group as observers.

In support of the work of the SPWG, two reports were produced by an independent consultant, Dave Pritchard:

- a) *Review of the CMS Strategic Plan 2006-2014*, including lessons learned; and
- b) *Proposals for the CMS Strategic Plan 2015-2023*.

Summary

The SPWG at its first meeting on 5 and 6 November 2012, discussed the reports of the consultant as well as suggestions on the way forward towards the drafting of a new Strategic Plan. The Group made good progress and agreed on several elements in support of the development of a draft Strategic Plan by CMS COP11.

The SPWG agreed that the Strategic Plan should be for migratory species in general to focus on the issue rather than on the CMS instruments. Furthermore, a twin-track approach was developed which will:

1. Allow the development of a *strategic* Strategic Plan, based on the approach used in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and in particular its Aichi Biodiversity Targets; and
2. Support the Plan's implementation through a technical Companion Volume.

The SPWG Members confirmed their commitment to play a key role in mobilizing their regions in the development of the Strategic Plan but stressed the need for support to do so efficiently. The SPWG considered it of high importance to support the development of the draft Strategic Plan through intensive consultations and agreed to develop an enhanced consultation process to support regional involvement as well as outreach at global level. This should allow close involvement not only of all CMS Parties through the regions, but also of all CMS instruments, other stakeholders and other MEAs.

The SPWG further requested the Secretariat to engage actively in fundraising to support this process and raise awareness of its importance. It is clear that funding will be required to allow a strong participatory process to take place that will result in strong buy-in at all levels by the time of CMS COP11.

A dedicated [page](#) has been created on the CMS website to provide information about the work of the Group, where relevant documents are made available as work progresses, in particular to support outreach and consultations by the Group and other stakeholders. A Concept Note regarding further steps towards drafting the Strategic Plan is already available for use in outreach and consultations (copy attached).

Finally, based on the elements identified in the consultant's reports, the SPWG also spent some time on issues that could benefit from being addressed more intensively now, before the next CMS COP, in order to support the implementation of the current Strategic Plan:

- The need to reinforce the integration of migratory species into revisions of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). There is guidance within the CMS on this issue but it is important to emphasize the urgency of the matter given that in many countries the NBSAPs are currently being revised in light of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and any further delay will make it difficult to integrate migratory issues at a later stage.
- Along the same lines, CMS should already engage actively in the UN Decade on Biodiversity and benefit from the relevant Aichi Biodiversity Targets, in particular Target 20 on resource mobilization which is for biodiversity in general, including migratory species. An info note will be made available by the SPWG on the issue of resource mobilization for this purpose.

**Concept Note towards a
Strategic Plan for Migratory Species, 2015-2023**

Migratory Species and Conserving the World's Biodiversity!

The Way Forward – A Twin Track Approach

The CMS Strategic Plan Working Group (SPWG) has agreed upon the following approach to guide the further development of the draft Strategic Plan 2015-2023.

It should be a Strategic Plan for Migratory Species:

- To focus on the issue, not the CMS instruments;
- To support the entire CMS Family of instruments; and
- To encourage efforts by all towards the conservation of migratory species.

The Strategic Plan should be strategic:

- To define expected long-term/high-level outcomes for migratory species as a framework for assessing progress and results;
- To generate political support at national, regional and global levels for migratory species considerations; and
- To increase visibility of migratory species issues.

However, there is also a need to look at the shortcomings of the previous Plan, such as:

- Lack of guidance for the implementation of the CMS instruments; and
- Lack of support for CMS Parties in terms of resources, capacity building and technical assistance.

Both issues (strategic and implementation) will be addressed through a twin-track approach:

1. A 'strategic' Strategic Plan for Migratory Species

This will be a short, focused document that will provide overall guidance for migratory species, can be easily communicated at the political level and will facilitate both high-level and country-level buy-in to enhance political status, engagement and funding. It will be developed by:

- Using the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets as a basis, in order to benefit from existing political visibility and support at national and global levels;
- Tapping into existing supporting mechanisms (e.g., on capacity building, NBSAP revisions, Aichi Target 20 on resource mobilization, and activities in the UN Decade for Biodiversity);
- Identifying explicitly how migratory species contribute to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and how the Targets in turn will contribute to the objectives for conserving migratory species; and

- Developing targets specific to migratory species, using the Aichi Targets as a framework but not restricted by them, so as to retain migratory species' identity and added-value.

Note: More specific targets for some of the CMS instruments could then be further developed by their individual governing bodies to underpin the overall targets for migratory species.

2. A 'technical' Companion Volume for Implementation

The Companion Volume would be cross-referenced within the Plan itself, to provide technical guidance and support for its implementation. It would serve to:

- Remedy shortcomings in implementation of the previous Plan;
- Connect with and guide future CMS decisions (for the CMS and its instruments);
- Provide guidance for enhanced and coherent implementation of the CMS Family in support of the Plan and identify clearly the possible role of individual instruments in this regard;
- Identify and take on board the individual contributions and responsibilities of National Focal Points, the Secretariats of CMS and its instruments, civil society and others;
- Support priority-setting for the development of future CMS instruments; and
- Further develop specific provisions on indicators, monitoring and evaluation, reporting, capacity building, and so on.

Further steps

A draft Strategic Plan will be developed over the next months which will identify:

- The mutual relevance of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and migratory species;
- Possible relevant high-level targets for migratory species; and
- The needs regarding implementation, monitoring and indicators for its implementation.

SPWG background and working documents can be found [here](#)⁴.

The added value of the Strategic Plan will highly depend on its buy-in at national, regional and global level. It is therefore of high importance to support the development of the draft Strategic Plan through intensive consultations that will allow the close involvement of all CMS Parties through the regions, but also of all CMS instruments, other stakeholders and other MEAs.

The following opportunities are being explored to raise awareness regarding this issue:

- Making available communication and outreach material for use by SPWG members and other interested stakeholders (PowerPoint presentations and so on, available [here](#)⁵);
- Organizing expert meetings and/or regional consultations on the draft Strategic Plan;
- Raising the issue in the margins of relevant planned MEA meetings to engage Parties either individually or through back-to-back meetings; and
- Engaging the entire CMS Family through the SPWG, through discussions on the draft Plan during their own meetings, through electronic means, through meetings back to back with other meetings, and so on.

⁴ http://www.cms.int/bodies/StC/strategic_plan_2015_2023_wg/strpln_wg_mainpage.htm

⁵ http://www.cms.int/bodies/StC/strategic_plan_2015_2023_wg/strpln_wg_mainpage.htm