



**Convention on the
Conservation of Migratory
Species of Wild Animals**

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STRATEGY FOR THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONVENTION

1. As agreed by the CMS Standing Committee at its 19th meeting (Bonn, January 1999), the Secretariat has revised the draft Strategic Plan for the Convention on Migratory Species (2000-2005) in consultation with a working group comprised of CMS Focal Points and other interested participants. After incorporating initial comments from Standing Committee members, the Secretariat circulated a second draft of the Strategy in July 1999 to all CMS Focal Points, Scientific Councillors and selected intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Thereafter, a smaller working group was formed of correspondents who expressed interest in helping to further refine the document (see attachment). The final draft text is thus the product of three rounds of consultations among those experts most familiar with the functioning of the Convention. The Secretariat would like to take this opportunity to express its sincere appreciation for the many constructive comments that were provided, and which have helped to improve the document considerably from its first draft.

2. The present document comprises the following:

- a short introduction to CMS, the achievements of the Convention since its inception, and the broad objectives contained in the Strategic Plan;
- a table of contents and explanation of abbreviations used in the text;
- an executive summary of only those strategic actions that have been designated (provisionally) as being of the highest priority, together with a listing of all of the operational objectives contained in the Strategic Plan; and
- the Strategic Plan itself, beginning in Part I with a review of progress in implementation of the priority objectives and activities identified in Resolution 5.4 (Geneva, 1997), followed by a forward-looking Part II, which lists about 135 specific activities for consideration by the Conference of the Parties. These have been divided into two categories: those of a *strategic* nature, as distinct from those that may be characterized as *ongoing or maintenance* activities, but still worthy of mention because of their resource implications.

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.

3. The Secretariat has identified and roughly costed those actions which are best undertaken through external contracts (refer also to document UNEP/CMS/Res. 6.7 Annex 1a), and it has identified to *the level of functional units* within the Secretariat the human resource needs for the remaining activities in which it is involved directly or indirectly. It has not, however, undertaken a more detailed analysis to estimate the amount of Secretariat staff time that a given activity would require. With more time and resources than are presently at its disposal, the Secretariat *could* carry out such an exercise, although it would certainly involve considerable “guess work” since the workload of the Secretariat is to a large extent a function of the degree of engagement of the Parties themselves.

4. While it is understood that a more precise costing would be desirable for decision-making purposes, it may be premature to do this for dozens of activities which, in the final analysis, the Conference of the Parties may judge to be of low priority. To partially compensate for the lack of detail that some Parties may wish to see, the Secretariat has attempted to demonstrate in the associated budget papers (in particular, document UNEP/CMS/Conf. 6.13.1 Annex II) the direct correspondence between a particular strategic or ongoing activity and the proposed functional units within the Secretariat. A careful reading of that Annex should indicate the extent to which implementation of the Strategic Plan is dependent on there being sufficient resources within a given functional unit to undertake the activities identified as priorities by the Conference of the Parties.

5. Finally, the Secretariat wishes to emphasize that the draft Strategic Plan is still very much a working document. A considerable amount of discussion and debate will be needed to reach consensus on the priority attached to a particular activity and, where necessary, to flesh out in more detail those activities identified as being of the highest importance for the conservation of migratory species. Recognizing that Part II of the Strategic Plan, in its level of detail, may overwhelm the casual reader, the Secretariat recommends that the executive summary be used as a reference point to gauge whether or not the overall direction of the Strategic Plan is appropriate.

Members of the Strategic Plan Working Group

Member	Written comments provided on the drafts of 12 July and/or 21 September (and/or the first draft presented to the Standing Committee in January 1999)	Notes
Australia		Andrew McNee
Benin	(✓)	Mohamed Abdoulaye; unable to retrieve detailed comments due to computer virus
Germany		Gerhard Adams
Guinea	✓	Abder Kader Bangoura
Netherlands	✓	Gerard Boere
Switzerland		Olivier Biber
United Kingdom	✓	Mark O'Sullivan
World Conservation Monitoring Centre		Jeremy Harrison
BirdLife International		John O'Sullivan
Monaco	✓	S.E. Bernard Fautrier; did not formally request to be a member of the WG
Senegal	✓	Souleye Ndiaye; did not formally request to be a member of the WG
Togo	✓	Kotchikpa Okoumassou; did not formally request to be a member of the WG

Other comments received from:

Morocco		acknowledgment only
CBD		query only
Global Environment Facility		acknowledgment only
UNON-Admin. Services.	✓	
UNEP-LEOI	✓	

Strategic Plan for the Convention on Migratory Species

[Draft as at 6 October 1999]

Introduction

1. The Strategic Plan for the Convention on Migratory Species¹ lays the foundation for the Convention's work at the start of the new century and millennium. It aims to build on CMS' achievements to ensure the conservation of threatened migratory species, by fostering and facilitating international cooperation and action through both the parent Convention and the growing number of species-specific regional Agreements. By forging closer links with other international conventions with related objectives in the field of biodiversity conservation, the Convention will ensure that resources and energies are employed efficiently, and that knowledge and expertise acquired are put to the widest and best possible use.

2. In recognition of the fact that migratory species of wild animals are of global importance, the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm, 1972), with the endorsement of the twenty-seventh session of the General Assembly, called upon the world community of States to draw special attention to the conservation of species of wild animals that regularly cross national borders or that migrate in international waters. The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals was concluded in 1979 as a consequence.

3. The preamble to the Convention recognizes, among other things, that:

- wild animals possess ever-growing value from environmental, ecological, genetic, scientific, aesthetic, recreational, cultural, educational, social and economic points of view;
- migratory species in their innumerable forms are an irreplaceable part of the earth's natural system which must be conserved for the good of mankind;
- each generation of man holds the resources of the Earth for future generations and has an obligation to ensure that this legacy is conserved and, where utilized, is used wisely; and
- States are and must be the protectors of the migratory species of wild animals that live within or pass through their national jurisdictional boundaries.

4. Migratory animals exemplify the interdependence of, and linkages between, ecosystems that are distributed over great distances. Particularly vulnerable because of their often long migrations and their dependence on specific habitats for breeding, wintering and resting, migratory species also serve as indicators of the state of ecosystems and of ecological change. The Convention on Migratory Species is the only instrument operating at a global scale devoted exclusively to the conservation and management, as appropriate, of this important component of biodiversity.

5. In 1999, the Convention on Migratory Species celebrates the twentieth anniversary of its signing in Bonn. If the accomplishments made during the Convention's infancy in the 1980s -- following its entry into force in 1983 -- were modest, the past decade of adolescence has been characterized by solid growth and maturation, during which time:

¹ Throughout this document, the short forms "Convention on Migratory Species", "Bonn Convention", "Convention", "parent convention", and "CMS" will be used to denote the *Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals*, the official name of the treaty adopted in Bonn on 23 June 1979.

- the CMS family has continued to grow steadily, to include 65 Contracting Parties across the world, with another 20 non-Party countries participating in Agreements concluded under the auspices of the Convention;
- Agreements have come into force to promote the conservation of seals of the Wadden Sea, small cetaceans of the North and Baltic Seas, and European bats, each with their own secretariat arrangements;
- similar Agreements have been concluded for cetaceans of the Mediterranean and Black Seas, and -- the most ambitious project so far -- for migratory waterbirds of the African-Eurasian flyway, both expected to be operational in the near future (with the latter Agreement formally having entered into force on 1 November 1999);
- Memoranda of Understanding have been drawn up for endangered species such as the Siberian Crane, the Slender-billed Curlew and, most recently, for marine turtles of the Atlantic coast of Africa;
- similar Agreements or Memoranda of Understanding are anticipated to cover such varied groups of migratory animals as the Asian Houbara Bustard and the Great Bustard, albatrosses of the southern hemisphere, Andean flamingoes, and ungulates of the Arabian peninsula and of the Sahelo-Saharan region;
- funding has been made available to help finance catalytic projects to benefit migratory species in many parts of the world; and
- numerous meetings and workshops have been organized to share information, to improve regional co-ordination and, above all, to agree on the concrete actions that need to be taken to improve the conservation status of migratory species.

6. Still, the threats facing some species on the brink of extinction leave no room for complacency. There are many challenges which the Convention has only just begun to address. Indeed, this Strategic Plan, covering a five year period, is an admission that much of the work still lies ahead.

7. Developed countries, both Parties to CMS and non-Parties, and funding agencies could contribute more to achieving the objectives of the Convention by, *inter alia*, reviewing their funding criteria to ensure that well-designed, projects receive the support they require. Through their research and monitoring components, such projects should provide a better understanding of the migration systems of migratory species. Their findings should help to identify the most urgent and important conservation needs and stimulate the elaboration of cost-effective conservation measures to be implemented throughout the species' migration range. This will require that some resources be channelled to assist countries in the process of development or in economic transition to ensure that they can play their full part in internationally co-ordinated actions. The success of these efforts will depend in part on raising public awareness of the rationale for, and long-term benefits of, conservation programmes; securing the participation of stakeholders in decision-making processes in a meaningful way; and ensuring an equitable distribution of the benefits accruing from such actions.

8. Efforts aimed specifically at benefiting migratory species contribute to the broader objectives of conserving biodiversity and should be recognised as part of an integrated approach to the implementation of all the conservation-related conventions. The aims of CMS and its sister conventions – Ramsar, CBD and CITES, to name just a few – are complementary and mutually reinforcing. Yet more attention needs to be given to co-ordinating action, creating synergies and avoiding duplication among the respective treaty bodies and other concerned partners within the non-governmental community.

9. CMS has a unique role to play in the suite of global and regional conventions. The wide geographic representation and broad objectives of the parent convention are combined with specific actions and targets contained within the regional Agreements, Memoranda of Understanding and Conservation Plans. While the present Strategic Plan deliberately concentrates on the operational objectives and activities of the parent convention, it is recognized that, to an ever increasing extent, the actual implementation of CMS will be effected through the instruments concluded under its auspices. The development of further regional Agreements acts as a stimulus for co-operative actions, and remains one of the most practical and effective means of achieving real advances in conservation.

10. The present Strategy builds on documents presented to the fourth and fifth meetings of the Conference of the Parties. Part I reviews progress in implementation of the objectives and activities identified by the Conference of the Parties as priority actions in Resolution 5.4, since its adoption in April 1997. The forward-looking Part II of the document identifies eight key areas where efforts should be concentrated in the medium term to secure the optimum level of progress and development:

Objective 1: To focus and prioritize conservation actions

There is an urgent need to engage and influence those sectors of economic activity which have significant impacts on migratory species; to ensure that concerns related to the conservation of migratory species are integrated in national planning and priority-setting; for Parties to implement fully their strict obligations vis-à-vis species listed in Appendix I; and to ensure that the scientific basis for establishing priorities -- namely through the listing of species in the Appendices -- is sound.

Objective 2: To promote the conservation of migratory species included in the CMS Appendices

Parties are encouraged to use the full range of measures at the disposal of the Convention -- Agreements, MoUs and Action Plans -- to promote the conservation of species throughout their migratory range; to deploy finite resources in a strategic manner, building on natural, regional affinities while working within a global framework with wider benefits; and to continue to support field projects that serve to catalyse longer-term activities.

Objective 3: To facilitate and improve implementation of the Convention

All Parties are encouraged to review their national legislation and administrative structures to ensure that they are responsive to the requirements for implementing CMS. Reporting arrangements, which provide essential feedback, must be streamlined. Capacity-building, enhancing public participation and networking with neighbouring countries are all critical components to successful implementation. Where capacity-building is of particular relevance to developing countries, use of mechanisms such as the GEF should be explored to address actual needs.

Objective 4: To enhance global membership in CMS

Coverage of migration routes must be as comprehensive as possible for maximum effectiveness of joint efforts to conserve migratory species. This is especially important in relation to long-distance migrants, such as those covered by the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement. Increasing the membership will eliminate gaps in geographic range and enhance opportunities for regional co-operation and co-ordination in areas of common concern.

Objective 5: To increase awareness of the aims of CMS and of its relevance within the community of environmental conventions

By the very fact they migrate over long distances, migratory animals provide natural links between different ecosystems and different countries. CMS is also uniquely placed to serve as a mechanism for fulfilling those aims of the Convention on Biological Diversity which relate to migratory species. Information programmes of CMS Parties and of the Secretariat need strengthening in order to convey this message effectively.

Objective 6: To mobilise financial resources needed for conservation actions

CMS's own means are quite modest, but sufficient to fund a limited number of small projects specific to the conservation of key Appendix I migratory species and to act as a catalyst for actions in developing countries and countries whose economies are in transition. Projects should be elaborated in such a way as to ensure their eligibility for financial support from other sources, including the GEF. Certain issues fundamental to the Convention warrant financing in their own right.

Objective 7: To rationalise arrangements for the institutions of the Convention

The organs of the Convention -- the COP, the Standing Committee, the Scientific Council, and the Secretariat -- ought to be reviewed as the Convention attracts a greater membership of Parties and as the number of related Agreements grows, to ensure that they are well-equipped to fulfill their functions properly. The role of the Secretariat as the *developer and facilitator* of CMS should be defined and set apart from the role of the Parties, which should assume more responsibility for the practical *implementation* of the Convention, including taking a lead role in the development of Agreements, as called for under Article IV.

Objective 8: To strengthen institutional linkages with partner organizations

The aims and objectives of CMS complement and reinforce those of other international conventions and are shared by other international, governmental and non-governmental organisations. Co-operation in areas of mutual interest is therefore essential.

11. Under each of these eight broad headings, a number of strategic actions have been identified through which to advance the aims of the Convention. The plan also includes a number of programmatic activities that have already been or are about to be initiated and which are of an ongoing nature. While not necessarily of a strategic nature, the latter have nevertheless been retained because they may have budgetary or resource implications that need to be taken into account. The plan has been organized in tabular form, with columns in which to prioritize the actions, to specify the main actors involved in a given activity, and to indicate special resource requirements. These requirements have been indicated to the extent that a need has been identified for new funding from: (1) the core budget; (2) the reserve of the CMS Trust Fund; (3) individual Parties and (4) extra-budgetary sources, including voluntary contributions. Where no funding source is indicated, it can be assumed that the activity can be undertaken within the regular work of the Secretariat (based on the resource requirements identified in document UNEP/CMS/Conf. 6.13.1 and Draft Resolution 6.7), or by the Parties themselves, without need for special mention in the CMS budget.

12. Experience has shown that non-Party countries are attracted to join CMS when useful initiatives are undertaken within the region in which they are located. This should serve as an added incentive for all Parties to make full use of the tools of the Convention to demonstrate its value to neighbouring States. All States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention and the related Agreements for which they are eligible, are invited to join this dynamic suite of conservation instruments. International and national non-governmental organisations specialised in the conservation and management of wildlife and ecosystems are encouraged to lend their support to this common initiative on behalf of the world's migratory species.

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Explanation of abbreviations used in the text

ADS	Agreement Development and Servicing, UNEP/CMS Secretariat
AFP	Administration, Finance and Project Management, UNEP/CMS Secretariat
Budget	Core budget of CMS (Trust Fund)
Sub-contract	Sub-contract budget line in the CMS core budget
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
COP	Conference of the Parties (#)
EDM	Executive Direction and Management, UNEP/CMS Secretariat
ICB	Information and Capacity-Building, UNEP/CMS Secretariat
Meeting	Meetings budget line in the CMS core budget
Reserve	Reserve in the CMS Trust Fund (should there be any) that the COP may wish to allocate for specific conservation measures
ScC	CMS Scientific Council
Secretariat	UNEP/CMS Secretariat
StC	CMS Standing Committee
STS	Scientific and Technical Support, UNEP/CMS Secretariat

H *High priority action:* The activity is essential for the future development of the Convention; failure to adopt and provide sufficient resources for these measures would seriously impede implementation of CMS, and therefore undermine the Convention's stated aim of conserving migratory species.

M *Medium priority action:* The activity is important if CMS is to advance beyond the *status quo* and contribute more substantially to the conservation of migratory species on a global scale; failure to adopt and provide sufficient resources for these measures would constrain CMS' field of application to a limited range of ongoing activities.

L *Lower priority action:* The activity would benefit the implementation of CMS, but has a lower priority in relation to other measures if there is a need to choose between alternative courses of action.

Executive Summary: Operational Objectives

1.1 – Sectoral / interdisciplinary approaches

To engage, and interact more frequently with, those sectors and disciplines whose activities and influence are vital for the success of conservation initiatives for migratory species.

1.2 – National and regional priorities

To ensure that the activities of the Convention are in line with national and regional priorities, and vice versa, and that government policies at those levels include consideration of migratory species, in particular with regard to land-use planning, designation and development of reserves, development of ecological networks, and planning of powerlines, fences, dams etc)

1.3 – Mitigation of obstacles to migration

With reference to Article III, paragraph 4, of the Convention, requiring Parties to endeavour to mitigate obstacles to migration: review systematically and comprehensively the special problems faced by migratory animals in relation to various obstacles to migration, and propose remedial measures that may have widespread applicability.

1.4 – Appendix I species

To ensure that Appendix I reflects accurately those endangered migratory species most in need of attention; to review the conservation needs of those species systematically with a view to arriving at a prioritized plan for further action; and to have in place by COP8 concrete instruments for the protection and recovery of all “Concerted Action” species identified in Resolutions of the COP.

1.5 – Appendix II species

To ensure that Appendix II reflects accurately those migratory species with an unfavourable conservation status or which would benefit from the conclusion of Agreements for their conservation; and to identify systematically those taxonomic groups which should be priorities for the development of Agreements. Parties and the Secretariat should give priority to the development of *new* Agreements, particularly in regions where CMS initiatives are not well advanced, and place less emphasis on those Agreements that are already operational (such as those in Europe).

1.6 – Data required for decision-making

To identify and secure the best available scientific data on which to base decisions regarding the inclusion or deletion of species in/from the Appendices, as well as the prioritization of conservation actions; and to maintain the accuracy of the CMS Range State list (and, therefore, its usefulness as a reference tool).

1.7 – Policies on satellite telemetry

To play a more active role in the scrutiny of conservation/research projects that propose the use of satellite telemetry, particularly those involving endangered species listed in Appendix I, to ensure compliance with agreed guidelines.

2.1 – Birds

To stimulate concerted actions in favour of each of the endangered bird species listed in Appendix I and to facilitate the development and implementation of Agreements or Memoranda of Understanding to address the conservation needs of these and other migratory birds on a regional or broader scale.

2.2 – Marine mammals

To stimulate concerted actions in favour of each of the endangered marine mammal species listed in Appendix I that are not adequately covered by other instruments, and to facilitate the development and implementation of Agreements to address the conservation needs of these and other marine mammals on a regional or broader scale, as appropriate. Synergies should be sought with other organizations involved with marine mammal conservation, including UNEP, and attention given to putting in place or strengthening conservation measures at the national level (without necessarily requiring the development of new Agreements).

2.3 -- Marine turtles

Taking account of Document CMS/ScC.8/Doc.10 (Recommendations on Future CMS Activities for Marine Turtle Conservation): to stimulate concerted actions in favour of the endangered marine turtle species listed in Appendix I and to catalyse appropriate arrangements to address their conservation needs on a regional level, in such a way that these initiatives may eventually be linked to form a comprehensive global framework.

2.4 – Terrestrial mammals (other than bats)

To stimulate concerted actions in favour of each of the terrestrial marine mammal species listed in Appendix I, and to facilitate the development and implementation of regional Agreements to address the conservation needs of these and other terrestrial mammals, giving highest priority to the following initiatives.

2.5 – Bats

To stimulate concerted actions in favour of any endangered bat species listed in Appendix I and identified as a priority for concerted action, and explore needs and opportunities to develop Agreements for the conservation of bats outside of Europe.

2.6 – Other taxa

To ensure that appropriate consideration is given to other taxonomic groups traditionally not covered within the framework of CMS.

3.1 - Legislation and Programming

To ensure that legislation and corresponding regulations needed to underpin the Convention's implementation on a national level are comprehensive and coherent.

3.2 – National administrative structures

To ensure that, at the national level, the conservation requirements of species covered by CMS are addressed adequately and consistently within the framework of existing administrative arrangements.

3.3 – Capacity building

To develop the capacity of national institutions, particularly those in developing countries, to implement the provisions of the Convention. In carrying out this objective, industrialized countries should establish or extend partnerships with developing countries, preferably on a regional basis where natural affinities exist.

3.4 – Participation

To enhance public support for conservation initiatives by encouraging stake-holder participation in the planning processes and ensuring equitable sharing of the benefits accruing from sustainable utilisation.

3.5 – Networking

To broaden the base of support for regional conservation efforts by inviting non-Parties to participate in CMS-related activities.

3.6 – Reporting

To improve reporting by Contracting Parties to enable an objective assessment of progress in the Convention's overall implementation; to provide feedback to Parties that is more responsive to their needs; and to harmonize reporting requirements across biodiversity-related Conventions.

3.7 – Strategic Planning

To give a clear sense of direction and focus to the entire breadth of activities being undertaken within the framework of the Convention.

4.1 – Membership

To endeavour to secure membership of at least 85 Parties to the Convention by the end of 2002, and 100 by the end of 2005, including at least 8-12 non-Parties that have been identified by the Standing Committee as high priorities for recruitment.

5.1 – National information programmes

To increase national awareness of the socio-economic and other intrinsic values of migratory species, of the threats they face and of the collaborative actions that are needed to conserve them for future generations.

5.2 – Secretariat information programme

To develop a suite of information materials that are effectively targeted to the full range of audiences that CMS needs to address in order to gain support for the Convention's aims.

5.3 – Efficacy of information programmes

To promote exchange of information about the effectiveness of various techniques used to foster understanding and awareness of the issues surrounding the conservation of migratory species.

6.1 – Funding sources: developing countries, transitional economies

To increase the level of funding support external to CMS (which may or may not be channelled through the Convention) that is made available for conservation activities having direct benefits for migratory species.

7.1 – Conference of the Parties

To ensure that, as the Convention grows, the organization of each meeting of the Conference of the Parties continues to respond effectively to the needs of the membership.

7.2 – CMS Agreements

To take advantage of experience gained in the development of existing CMS Agreements by applying this knowledge, where appropriate, to future Agreements through established guidelines; and to rationalise secretariat arrangements on a regional basis to take advantage of economies of scale and institutional synergies.

7.3 – Standing Committee

To participate actively in the development of the Convention inter-sessionally, to play an ambassadorial role for CMS on a regional level, and to ensure that the Committee's composition is representative of the regional membership of the Convention. Over the longer term, the Standing Committee should develop a plan to establish a network between CMS and regionally-based agreements.

7.4 – Scientific Council

To increase participation of Scientific Councillors in the Council's meetings and inter-sessional activities, including specialized working groups; and to ensure that the Council is structured in such a way as to maximize its effectiveness as an advisory body.

7.5 – Secretariat

To ensure that the resources available to the Secretariat are commensurate with the mandate determined by the COP.

8.1 – Working relationships with IGOs (general)

To maintain and, where necessary, strengthen working relationships with other intergovernmental conservation conventions (global and regional) with a view to creating synergies and minimizing duplication of effort.

8.2 – Global Conventions

To intensify collaboration with other global conventions in concrete activities of mutual interest.

8.3 -- Regional Bodies

To intensify collaboration with regional organizations in concrete activities of mutual interest, particularly in those areas where there may be a tendency for duplication of mandates.

8.4 – Non-governmental organizations

To enhance the participation of specialized non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the activities of the Convention.

8.5 – United Nations Environment Programme

To enhance the participation of the United Nations Environment Programme in CMS programmatic activities, within the mandate accorded by UNEP's Governing Council.

8.6 – United Nations Development Programme, World Bank

To engage the UNDP and World Bank more actively in matters concerning the conservation of migratory species and the habitats on which they depend, in particular as regards incorporation of these concerns in project development and funding.

Executive Summary: Key² Strategic Actions

Objective 1: To focus and prioritize conservation actions

- 1.1.2 Intensify dialogue and co-operation with the fisheries sector where there are known impacts on migratory species (e.g. by-catch of albatrosses, marine turtles, dolphins in high seas and coastal fisheries). Commission a study to provide, in the first instance, an overview of the magnitude and scope of such threats; to inform and enhance awareness among decision-makers of their actual or potential impacts, and to propose appropriate control mechanisms.
- 1.1.4 Develop, by way of a commissioned study, proposals on how actions to conserve and manage migratory species under CMS and related Agreements can be included in the development-cooperation activities of bilateral, supra-national and international organizations.
- 1.2.1 Prepare, for presentation to COP7, draft guidelines on the integration of migratory species concerns into national and, as appropriate, regional planning, including as appropriate texts of model legislation and action plans. Particular emphasis should be given to the integrated approaches needed for the maintenance of essential ecological corridors for migratory species.
- 1.2.2 Organize at least one annual meeting in each region, including participation of non-Parties, to promote co-operative actions for the conservation of CMS-listed species as well as consideration of other species that would benefit from inclusion in the Appendices.
- 1.2.3 As a contribution to the work of the CBD, and making use of national monographs on biological diversity, commission case studies of how migratory species are being utilised at the national level, assess the economic value of such activities, and examine the potential for enhancing economic benefits through sustainable utilisation (either consumptive or non-consumptive exploitation).
- 1.2.5 In close co-operation with other Range States, particularly neighbouring States, and taking into account commitments under other international instruments, designate protected areas for the benefit of critically endangered species listed in Appendix I, so that a network of critical sites or corridors is established throughout the migration route of the species concerned.
- 1.3.1 With particular emphasis on Appendix I species and building on work already initiated within the Scientific Council, examine in more depth the problems posed by obstacles to migration, and identify possible remedial measures through case studies.
- 1.4.1 Compile or update, for consideration by the 10th meeting of the Scientific Council and thereafter for presentation to COP7, review reports on all those Appendix I species identified by previous meetings of the COP as candidates for concerted action, including recommendations on further measures needed to assure their protection.
- 1.4.2 Have in place, by the time of COP8, concrete plans (i.e., Action Plans or Memoranda of Understanding) for the protection and recovery of all Concerted Action species identified by the sixth and seventh meetings of the Conference of the Parties as warranting the development of such instruments, based on the review reports prepared until that time by Scientific Councillors or consultants.

² This list includes only those strategic actions that have been designated (provisionally) as being of the highest priority. The numbers in the left-hand column refer to the actions contained in Part II of the Strategic Plan.

Objective 2: To promote the conservation of migratory species included in the CMS Appendices

- 2.1.1 Support and provide input to the *Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy* (1996-2000) and future related initiatives that may lead, at an appropriate time, to a formal multilateral Agreement among States of the region, under the auspices of CMS.
- 2.1.2 Take an active role in the development of a conservation initiative for migratory waterbirds of the Central Asian-Indian flyway, in collaboration with relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental partners.
- 2.1.3 Facilitate the preparation of an Agreement on the conservation of albatrosses in the southern hemisphere, providing any technical and legal advice necessary for it to be concluded in 2000; and, in the medium-term, examine the need and potential to extend its geographical scope.
- 2.3.1 While taking measures to address issues such as by-catch in coastal and high-seas fisheries, continue to strategically extend the geographic scope and range of activities in which CMS is involved for the conservation of marine turtles (including, where appropriate, working towards the development of Agreements).
- 2.3.2 Building on the series of CMS-sponsored workshops already held in the Indian Ocean region, facilitate the development of one or more comprehensive Agreements that will promote the conservation of marine turtles in that region, in particular by enhancing training opportunities, community participation and awareness, and communication/co-ordination among Range States.
- 2.3.4 Co-ordinate in 2000, in collaboration with relevant governmental and non-governmental bodies, the organization of the first of a series of pan-Mediterranean conferences on marine turtle conservation which will help to orient future regional collaboration, possibly taking the form of an Agreement covering the Mediterranean Sea and contiguous waters.

Objective 3: To facilitate and improve implementation of the Convention

- 3.1.1 Review and revise, as necessary, national legislation to ensure that it addresses the obligations under the Convention with respect to endangered species listed in Appendix I as well as species that are the object of CMS Agreements. As a first priority, remedy deficiencies in respect of Appendix I species, and report any amendments to COP7.
- 3.2.2 Where jurisdictional responsibilities coincide, establish interdepartmental/inter-ministerial committees that bring together viewpoints of the different sectors concerned (e.g. environment, agriculture, fisheries etc) and facilitate the exchange of information among them or, alternatively, add a CMS component to existing national committees (such as those created for CBD, Ramsar etc.)
- 3.3.1 Develop, as soon as possible after accession, a short- to medium-term programme of work aimed at putting the Convention's implementation on a sound footing, and evaluate capacity-building requirements in relation to this.
- 3.4.1 Commission as a first step, for review at COP7, case studies of successful community participation programmes in Parties (and non-Parties) to CMS, for each of the main taxonomic groups covered by the Convention.
- 3.6.1 Review and evaluate the reports submitted by Parties and, using information from other sources as well, to prepare a comprehensive report for the COP on the status and population trends for selected species, and conservation measures undertaken by the Parties and non-Party Range States (which could be forwarded as a CMS input to any assessment required by Convention on Biological Diversity in respect of migratory species conservation).

- 3.6.2 Evaluate, for COP7, the existing Party report formats and, taking account of previous analyses of the reports themselves, make recommendations as to how they might be modified to elicit the kind of information needed for monitoring of implementation and decision-making. Aspects of this analysis should feed into ongoing work of the five main biodiversity-related conventions to streamline and harmonize reporting requirements of Parties.

Objective 4: To enhance global membership in CMS

- 4.1.1 Intensify interventions at a high political level to persuade potential Parties to join the Convention and related Agreements by promoting the benefits of participating in CMS, giving highest priority to the key countries for which “country profiles” have already been developed.

Objective 5: To increase awareness of the aims of CMS and of its relevance within the community of environmental conventions

- 5.1.1 Engage local communities to benefit from their knowledge of migratory species, encourage their active participation in decision-making processes that may affect their traditional utilization of migratory animals, and ensure that their concerns about the impacts of activities carried out in the name of conservation are adequately addressed.
- 5.2.1 Strengthen the CMS Web site as vehicle for channelling information on migratory species to interested audiences by providing more frequent updates of basic information and improving substantive content through links to scientific data.

Objective 6: To mobilise financial resources needed for conservation actions

- 6.1.1 Facilitate the development (especially by non-governmental organizations) of project proposals that support the conservation and management of migratory species and which would be suitable for submission to the Global Environment Facility and/or other funding agencies, as appropriate.
- 6.1.2 Encourage bilateral, supra-national and international agencies to initiate and fund projects of larger transboundary dimension for migratory species, linking geographic areas of both developing and industrialised countries, and to adapt projects to include migratory species as a component of a broader conservation strategy.
- 6.1.3 Channel adequate bi-lateral governmental funding to projects for the implementation of CMS and Agreements in developing countries and countries in economic transition (especially in regions from where GEF funds are difficult to access), in particular by appealing to established partnerships between developed and developing countries.
- 6.1.4 Subject to the *Guidelines for Acceptance of Financial Contributions* (Resolution 5.7) and any other applicable United Nations rules and/or UNEP policies, explore the potential for tap into non-traditional funding sources for CMS conservation activities, such as foundations and corporate sponsorship, for example, from environmentally conscientious multinational companies with operations in/around habitats used by migratory species. Develop a specially tailored briefing kit for this purpose.

Objective 7: To rationalise arrangements for the institutions of the Convention

- 7.5.1 Keep under review the Secretariat’s resource requirements, in terms of finance and personnel, and endeavour to compensate any shortcomings identified inter-sessionally through additional voluntary

contributions and secondment of staff in accordance with United Nations rules and regulations, in particular where this would improve the geographic, linguistic and gender balance of the Secretariat staff.

Objective 8: To strengthen institutional linkages with partner organizations

- 8.1.4 Participate actively in efforts to put in place a harmonised information management infrastructure for biodiversity-related treaties, with the aim of improving communication and access to information by Parties, while reducing the burden of reporting requirements.
- 8.2.2 Intensify cooperation with the *Ramsar Convention on Wetlands* in fields of common interest within the framework of the existing MoU and work programme between Ramsar and CMS; arrange trilateral consultations among CMS, CBD and Ramsar, and explore the potential for organising common regional meetings.
- 8.5.1 Participate in and contribute to UNEP efforts to facilitate co-ordination among biodiversity related conventions.
- 8.6.1 Develop a plan through which to encourage UNDP and the World Bank to take a more active interest in integrating issues of migratory species conservation into the programmatic work of these agencies, and to submit migratory species conservation projects for GEF financing.