



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

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SUMMARY OF PROJECT PROPOSALS FOR WHICH VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS ARE SOUGHT

1. The number of projects conducted in co-operation with or under the auspices of CMS has been increasing steadily, resulting in an increase in the conservation effort for migratory species on the ground and further catalysing other project-based work.
2. During the 15th meeting of the Standing Committee (Bonn, January, 1997), the idea of developing special projects and asking potential donors for support through voluntary contributions was discussed. Following on from this meeting, the Secretariat identified various projects for which external funds would be required and presented this paper to the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Geneva, April, 1997). The result was that most of the projects received funding, although much of this came from the CMS Trust Fund.
3. In the table below, the Secretariat has summarised those projects for which funding is sought for the forthcoming triennium (2000-2002). The attached list should be considered *provisional*, and it will be continually updated by the Secretariat. The list will be presented to other possible donors as appropriate. Projects listed under Part I are at an advanced stage of preparation, with project proposals having been prepared already. Projects listed under Part II are at the conceptual stage.
4. Each of the projects is intended to address one or more of the strategic objectives proposed for implementation in the 2000-2002 triennium (cf. Document UNEP/CMS/Conf. 6.12), namely:
 1. Focus and prioritize conservation actions;
 2. Promote the conservation of migratory species included in the CMS Appendices;
 3. Facilitate and improve the implementation of the Convention;
 4. Enhance global membership in CMS;
 5. Increase awareness of the aims of CMS and its relevance with the community of environmental conventions;
 6. Mobilise financial resources needed for conservation actions;
 7. Rationalise arrangements for the institutions of the Convention; and
 8. Strengthen institutional linkages with partner organizations.

Summary of project proposals for which funding (full or partial) is sought:

Part I	Project Title - Concepts for which project proposals have been developed	Implementing Agency	Total Budget (US\$)
1	Developing a strategy for the conservation of grassland migratory birds in southern South America	Wetlands International and the La Plata Ornithological Association (Argentina), in cooperation with other institutions/agencies of Paraguay and Uruguay	25000
2	Conservation of the buff-breasted sandpiper in Argentina and Uruguay.	Wetlands International	20000
3	Survey of captures, distribution and natural history of dolphins and whales in Ghana and Togo, Gulf of Guinea	Marine Education and Research (MER), Bristol, UK	25000
4	Joint Philippines-Indonesia distribution and abundance survey of marine mammals in Celebes/Sulawesi Seas	Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Phil.; Research Institute of Marine Fisheries, Indonesia; Siliman University Marine Laboratory, Phil.; and Southwest Fisheries Science Center, La Jolla, USA	38000
5	African penguin (<i>Spheniscus demersus</i>): monitoring and population dynamics	Avian Demography Unit, University of Cape Town	27000
Part II	Project Title - Concepts already discussed by Scientific Council but for which further funding would be required.	Implementing Agency / Comments	Total Budget Estimate (US\$)
6	Action plan for the central Asian flyway - workshop	CMS, Ramsar Bureau and the Government of the Netherlands	60-90,000
7	Houbara bustard - Range State meeting		150000
8	Slender billed curlew working group	BirdLife International	20000
9	GEF Demonstration project for AEWA sites	AEWA and Wetlands International	~25,000
10	Action plans for transboundary conservation measures in east Africa	CMS + ?	~50,000
11	Study on synergies between CMS and CBD	CMS + ?	30-35,000
12	Conservation of Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes	CMS + ?	~100,000

13	Development of a Conservation Plan to accompany the Memorandum of Understanding on Marine Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa	Conservation Plan - Range State meeting (CMS)	80000
		Training Workshop (CMS)	40-50,000
14	Range State meeting to advance the development of an agreement on the conservation of marine turtles of the Indian Ocean -Australasian region	CMS Range State, in collaboration with CMS Secretariat	75-100,000
15	Evaluation of the biodiversity of fisheries resources of Congolese coastal waters	Groupe d'Etude et de Recherche sur la Diversité Biologique, Congo	11500

PART I Project Details:

1. DEVELOPING A STRATEGY FOR THE CONSERVATION OF GRASSLAND MIGRATORY BIRDS IN SOUTHERN SOUTH AMERICA

DESCRIPTION

During the last two Technical Meetings of the CMS's Group of Latin America and the Caribbean, the conservation of grassland migratory birds of southern South America was discussed and included in the agenda. Different countries agreed on the importance of developing a conservation strategy for this group of birds that migrate between Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay and Brazil.

These five grassland passerine birds (*Xamthopsar flavus*, *Alectrurus risora* and three species of the genus *Sporophila*) and the Buff-breasted sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*) have been proposed for inclusion in the CMS's Appendices, by Argentina. Their inclusion will be discussed at the forthcoming 6th Conference of the Parties to CMS (Cape Town, South Africa, 10-16 November 1999)

This project is aimed to develop - with the participation of various specialists from the different mentioned countries - a comprehensive "proposal-strategy" for the conservation of grassland migratory birds in southern South America.

Implementing agency: Wetlands International and the La Plata Ornithological Association (Argentina), in cooperation with other institutions/agencies of Paraguay and Uruguay.

Duration of the project: 12 months.

Estimated budget total : US\$25,000

2. CONSERVATION OF THE BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER IN ARGENTINA AND URUGUAY.

DESCRIPTION

This proposal would take a more detailed approach to the conservation of this threatened species. The Buff-breasted sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*) is a nearctic shorebird and is included in Appendix II of the CMS. It is proposed to be included on Appendix I due to its small and decreasing population size.

The predominant threat to this species is hunting by bird collectors. It is also threatened by continued habitat degradation and loss through changes in land use.

The project would include the development of a habitat model and estimates of the current population size. Some surveys would be needed in Uruguay. Outcomes of the project would include the development and implementation, in both countries, of conservation actions including awareness raising, and education.

The project would include contributing funds from the National Geographic Society.

Implementing agency: Wetlands International (and others if relevant)

Duration of project: 12 months

Estimated Budget total: US\$20,000

3. SURVEY OF CAPTURES, DISTRIBUTION AND NATURAL HISTORY OF DOLPHINS AND WHALES IN GHANA AND TOGO, GULF OF GUINEA.

DESCRIPTION

As a leading fishing nation in the Gulf of Guinea, Ghana's small-scale and industrial fisheries exert high pressure on marine biological resources. However Ghana's authorities, due to the experience of collapsed fish stocks, are aware of the problem and show much interest in sustainable management models. Bordered by ten West African countries, the Gulf of Guinea is one of the least studied regions in the world in terms of marine mammals. The long-term scope is to put increasing emphasis on regional cooperation in cetacean management.

Long-term aims of the project include:

- Establishing autochthonous expertise on whale and dolphin biology and conservation;
- Introducing the notion that non-lethal utilization of cetaceans (whale-watching) as marine wildlife may be far more valuable to Ghana than a short-lived, uncontrollable (lethal) exploitation until depletion or extinction;
- Regional UNEP/CMS agreement for the conservation of cetaceans in West Africa. Top officials at both the influential Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Ghana's Wildlife Department have shown an initial interest and offered institutional backing. These agencies may play a prominent future role at the regional level.
 - Awareness building
- Training, monitoring and research activities will be in co-ordination with Ghanaian authorities, including CSIR, Wildlife Department, as well as the Fisheries Ministry.
- Maintaining an efficient communication with authorities is considered essential for the long-term perspectives of the mission, as well as a prime conduit for marine mammal conservation awareness building.

Implementing agency: Marine Education and Research (MER), Bristol, UK

Duration of the project: 12 months

Estimated Budget total: US\$25,000

4. JOINT PHILIPPINES-INDONESIA DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE SURVEY OF

MARINE MAMMALS IN CELEBES/SULAWESI SEAS

DESCRIPTION

The workshop on the Biology and Conservation of Small Cetaceans and Dugongs of Southeast Asia under the UNEP East Asian Seas Action Plan has identified and recommended the area between the Philippines and Indonesia (Celebes/Sulawesi Seas as a priority area for cooperative research on marine mammals.

Aside from records on directed and incidental catches, strandings and sightings, little is known about the distribution, abundance and general ecology of the cetaceans in the Celebes Sea. Reasons for this lack of information on cetaceans in this area are: 1) lack of trained personnel to carry out cetacean research, 2) inherent difficulty in surveying areas shared by two countries, and 3) lack of resources to fund research in developing countries.

The objectives of this project include:

- To know the species composition of cetaceans in Celebes/Sulawesi Seas
- To assess the distribution and abundance of the common species
- To identify cetacean-fishery interactions in the area
- to generate interest and introduce methods of abundance assessment using the line transect method appropriate for developing countries.
- Encourage collaborative research on cetaceans between Philippines and Indonesia

Implementing agencies:

Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Phil.
Research Institute of Marine Fisheries, Indonesia
Siliman University Marine Laboratory, Phil.
Southwest Fisheries Science Center, La Jolla, USA

Duration of project: 6 months

Estimated budget total: US\$38,000

5. AFRICAN PENGUIN (*SPHENISCUS DEMERSUS*): MONITORING AND POPULATION DYNAMICS.

DESCRIPTION

The African penguin is endemic to southern Africa and is listed on Appendix II of the CMS. Populations have declined by approximately 50% since the first decade of the 20th century. It is currently listed as vulnerable under IUCN, based on criteria A1a, A2b and E.

Population threats used to be primarily from egg collection and harvesting of guano. While these practices have largely ceased, there are now other threats to the penguin population including pressure on the pelagic fish resource from human fishing activities, marine oil pollution and, to a lesser extent, competition for breeding space from an expanding African Fur Seal population.

An ongoing program of cleaning oiled seabirds has resulted in a large number of tagged birds being released to sea. The numbers of resightings of these birds has continued to increase with the monitoring that is in place, providing new and valuable data on survival of birds that have been cleaned and released. This work has worldwide implications as more sophisticated measures are developed to rehabilitate animals that are impacted on by human development and activity.

The objectives of the project include:

- Monitoring - continuation of the monitoring of the effectiveness of cleaning of oiled African Penguins; and undertake a comparative analysis of the survival and life history parameters of oiled versus normal

penguins.

- Population dynamics - estimate trends in the demographic characteristics (survival, dispersal, age at first breeding, etc) of African Penguins; build a population model for this species; and derive annual indices of population size, survival and productivity.
- Species Action Plan - assist in the development and implementation of an Action Plan for the African Penguin.

Implementing agency: Avian Demography Unit, University of Cape Town.

Duration of project: 24 months

Estimated budget total: 2000 US\$15,000
2001 US\$12,000

PART II Project details:

6	Action plan for the Central Asian Flyway - workshop
7	Houbara bustard - Range State meeting
8	Slender billed curlew working group
9	GEF Demonstration project for AEWA sites
10	Action plans for transboundary conservation measures in east Africa
11	Study on synergies between CMS and CBD
12	Conservation of Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes
13	Development and review of a Conservation Plan to accompany the Memorandum of Understanding concerning Marine Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa
14	Range State meeting to advance the development of an agreement on the conservation of marine turtles of the Indian Ocean -Australasian region
15	Evaluation of the biodiversity of fishery resources of Congolese coastal waters

6. ACTION PLAN FOR THE CENTRAL ASIAN FLYWAY - WORKSHOP

DESCRIPTION

There is general evidence of a north-south migration of waterbirds and these migration routes are known as flyways. The globe can be divided into three major regions, with overlap in some areas: 1) the North and South American flyways; 2) Africa-Eurasian flyways; and 3) the Asia-Pacific flyways. The central Asian flyway is a region of geographic overlap between these latter two. It is also a region that is characterised by political challenges, resulting in large scale landscape changes with so far little regard to the long term conservation of sites of importance in the migration of these birds.

There is a need to develop an Action Plan for migratory waterbirds from this region and it is proposed that a workshop be held to review and, if possible, finalise such a document. There would be a need to commission a consultant to undertake the initial drafting, an organization of the calibre of Wetlands International, would be suitable. Concomitantly, there is a need to increase the profile of both the Convention on Migratory Species and the Convention on Wetlands in the region. The opportunity presented by such a workshop would be useful in allowing the two conventions to demonstrate their

commitment to cooperative conservation.

Implementing agencies: CMS Secretariat, Ramsar Bureau, Government of the Netherlands
Duration of project: 6 months
Estimated budget total: US\$ 60-70,000 (nb CMS has already identified a US\$15,000 contribution. The Netherlands Government has likewise identified a contribution of US\$15,000 to be spent in 2000. Matching funding is being sought from Ramsar Bureau.)

7. HOUBARA BUSTARD - RANGE STATE MEETING

DESCRIPTION

An Agreement and a comprehensive Action Plan are being developed for the Asian sub-species of the Houbara Bustard. The bird has become politically important, symbolising unsustainable practices including over-hunting and the destruction of 'steppe grasslands'. Funding is sought to hold a formal negotiation meeting of the Range States for this species. The meeting would aim to conclude the Agreement and to ensure that the conservation action identified in the Action Plan is both relevant and applicable. The Range State meeting may also increase the commitment by individual countries to continue with conservation action.

Estimated budget: US\$150,000

8. SLENDER BILLED CURLEW WORKING GROUP

DESCRIPTION

A Slender Billed Curlew (*Numenius tenuirostris*) Working Group has been established under the auspices of the CMS to facilitate collaboration and cooperation among scientific experts and decision makers working in the conservation of this globally threatened species.

The Working Group is playing a major role in the implementation of the Action Plan, developed as part of the Memorandum of Understanding for the Slender Billed Curlew. Project monies are sought to implement aspects of the Action Plan. Greater detail will be provided following the 9th Meeting of the CMS Scientific Council.

Implementing agency: BirdLife International

Estimated budget: US\$20,000

9. GEF DEMONSTRATION PROJECT FOR AEWA SITES

DESCRIPTION

UNEP-GEF, in meetings with Wetlands International Consultant, Dr Mike Moser, has remained strongly supportive of the development of a GEF project based around support to an African/Eurasian migratory waterbird flyway initiative. A PDF-Block B proposal is currently under development and will encompass the entire area covered by the AEWA Agreement.

Important for the development of this initiative is support in identifying the most appropriate demonstration sites. The purpose of these sites is to be able to show that conservation objectives can be achieved within the context of sustainable production for local communities. Further advantages of this approach are that there would be a concomitant increase in synergy between the CMS and the Ramsar

Bureau.

The actual amount of funding support required for this component of the work has not been identified as it would need to be discussed in the context of the current PDF-Block B proposal currently being prepared by Dr Moser. The project itself is flagged here to indicate its importance in the work program of the CMS Secretariat.

10. ACTION PLANS FOR TRANSBOUNDARY CONSERVATION MEASURES IN EAST AFRICA

DESCRIPTION

The development of possible action plans for transboundary conservation measures in eastern Africa for migratory waterbirds is a priority work area of the CMS Secretariat. Projects to develop action plans, either along species /functional group lines, or along the lines of single species Action Plans (for species in need of urgent conservation action) provide one focus for this geographical region. The other area of work concerns the need to identify and develop conservation measures for corridors or networks used by migratory species. These corridors are currently the subject of international focus as they provide opportunities to integrate sustainable practices on a ecosystem level with development of regional cooperation in conservation.

The CMS Secretariat has in mind the convening of a "Commonwealth Meeting" (UK, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda) in the margins of the CITES CoP (Nairobi, April, 2000) where this initiative would be taken further.

11. STUDY ON SYNERGIES BETWEEN CMS AND CBD

DESCRIPTION

A draft proposal for this project has been received and is with UNEP for examination. Funding requested is in the order of US\$15-20,000. The project will examine the opportunities for further collaboration between the two Conventions.

12. CONSERVATION OF SAHELO-SAHARAN ANTELOPE

DESCRIPTION

The Sahelo-Saharan Antelope were deemed to be species in need of "concerted action" by the Conference of the Parties to the CMS in 1994 (Nairobi). The development of a detailed Action Plan has followed, as have a number of smaller scale initiatives. The CMS Scientific Council identified some US\$100,000 for projects to implement the Action Plan at its last meeting (ScC8, Wageningen, June, 1998). Further funding is now being sought to begin implementation of the second phase of work identified under the Action Plan. The CMS Secretariat will be in a stronger position to advise on the amount of money being sought after the forthcoming meeting of the Scientific Council, being held in association with the 6th Conference of the Parties in Cape Town, November 1999. It is thought, though, that the amount necessary will be in the same order of magnitude, *viz* US\$100,000.

Furthermore, the Secretariat has been advised by the Range State representatives to proceed with the development of a Range States' Agreement for the conservation and management of the Sahelo-Saharan ungulates and their habitat, to collect funds and to organise the next meeting of the Range States in 2000.

The Secretariat is planning to prepare the Agreement proposal in 2000 and to arrange a negotiation meeting in 2001 subject to the availability of funds.

13. DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW OF A CONSERVATION PLAN TO ACCOMPANY THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING CONCERNING MARINE TURTLES OF THE ATLANTIC COAST OF AFRICA (MAY 1999)

DESCRIPTION

An international conference organized under CMS auspices in Abidjan, in May 1999, adopted a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at promoting the conservation of marine turtles in the Range States concerned. The meeting also produced a first working draft of a Conservation Plan outlining measures to be undertaken in the short- and medium-term.

The meeting, which was co-sponsored by CMS, Government of France and the French Committee for IUCN, assembled representatives and specialists from 17 Range States, extending from Mauritania to Namibia. It was proposed that a complementary training workshop for technicians be held in the first half of 2000, and that a separate intergovernmental meeting be organized to finalize the Conservation Plan and to review implementation to date. Funds are needed for both the further development of the Conservation Plan and holding of a Range State meeting (in 2001), as well as the organization of the training workshop mentioned above. The budget for the former is estimated at \$80,000 and the latter: \$40,000 to \$50,000 depending on the venue and number/origin of the participants.

Separate consideration is being given to undertaking a feasibility study to examine the potential of developing one or more regional projects for submission to appropriate funding agencies.

14. ORGANIZATION OF A RANGE STATE MEETING TO ADVANCE THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF MARINE TURTLES OF THE INDIAN OCEAN -AUSTRALASIAN REGION

DESCRIPTION

In October 1999, the Government of Australia hosted a first consultation meeting of countries of the Indian Ocean-Australasian region to discuss the possible development of an agreement under CMS which would serve to link existing or planned initiatives in various sub-regions. Excellent progress was made, as reflected in a resolution adopted by the meeting giving a clear orientation to the contents of, and institutional arrangements for, such an agreement. The meeting agreed that a second negotiation session should take place within the first half of 2000 at a venue yet to be specified. India, a Party to CMS, is one possible option that will be explored.

Estimated cost: \$75,000 - 100,000 depending on the venue and number of participants.

15. EVALUATION OF THE BIODIVERSITY OF FISHERY RESOURCES OF CONGOLESE COASTAL WATERS

DESCRIPTION

The project concept proposes to determine the importance and distribution of fishery resources (including sharks, dolphins) along the Congolese coast, with particular regard to certain species subject to high levels of exploitation in recent years.

Implementing agency: Groupe d'Etude et de Recherche sur la Diversité Biologique, Congo

Duration of the project: 2 years

Estimated Budget total: US\$11,500