



Report to the Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals at its forty-fourth meeting

I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). It provides information on the most significant collaboration between UNEP and the secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) since the forty-third meeting of the Standing Committee of the Convention on Migratory Species, held in Quito in November 2014.
2. The report provides information on substantive programmatic and administrative support provided by UNEP to the secretariat, its Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015–2023 and the ongoing cooperation between the two organizations during that period.

II. Substantive programmatic support to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

A. Strategic Plan implementation

1. Global level

3. UNEP has continued to strengthen substantive and programmatic support to the work of the Convention on Migratory Species following the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, held in Quito in November 2014.
4. At its first session, the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme strengthened the political commitment within the context of the United Nations system to address its mandate as the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment.
5. Assembly resolutions 1/3 on illegal trade in wildlife, 1/5 on chemicals and waste, 1/6 on marine plastic debris and microplastics and 1/12 on the relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and multilateral environmental agreements are currently being implemented and therefore have an important impact on the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015–2023 as part of a mutually beneficial relationship between the Convention and the Assembly.
6. UNEP is well-positioned to make a positive contribution to work on the integrated perspective and enhancement of the implementation of the Convention and the cluster of biodiversity-related conventions through its medium-term strategy and respective programmes of work. The Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015–2023 will be reflected in and integrated into the UNEP medium-term strategy 2018–2021 and the relevant subprogrammes of the programme of work, thereby contributing to the implementation of resolution 11.1 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species.
7. UNEP is currently finalizing the project entitled “Improving the effectiveness of and cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions and exploring opportunities for further synergies” as part of a wider strategy aimed at addressing the mandate provided by the UNEP Governing Council to the Executive Director to undertake activities to improve the effectiveness of and cooperation among biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements (decision SS.XII/3) as well as paragraph 89 of the outcome document, “The future we want”, of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in June 2012. Two related expert meetings assembled representatives of the secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions and agreements, including the Convention on Migratory Species and national focal points.



8. The outcome document of the expert meetings, entitled “The options paper”, which provides options for enhancing synergies among the conventions, is currently being finalized. The outcome document will be presented in a number of forums as a basis for discussion and further action, including the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, in accordance with UNEP Governing Council decision SS.XII/3, the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions, the scientific advisory bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions, and the governing and advisory bodies of each biodiversity-related convention and agreement. It will also be one of several inputs to the party-led process initiated by the Convention on Biological Diversity in its decision XII/6 on cooperation with other conventions, international organizations and initiatives, which focuses on enhancing synergies and improving efficiency in the implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions.

9. In its resolution 1/3 on illegal trade in wildlife, the United Nations Environment Assembly called upon the General Assembly to consider the issue of illegal wildlife trade at its sixty-ninth session.

10. The recommendations adopted by the Policy Committee of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on illegal trade in wildlife and forest products on 3 February 2015 provide UNEP with a clear mandate within the United Nations system to work with the secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and other United Nations entities to ensure a coherent response by the United Nations system to the illegal trade in wildlife. UNEP, in collaboration with the CITES secretariat, was requested by the Policy Committee to convene the United Nations system to develop a robust evidence base, shared analysis and consequent recommendations for an effective and coherent United Nations response to the security, political, economic, environmental and social aspects of the illegal trade in wildlife. UNEP, in collaboration with CITES and other United Nations entities, was also requested to increase United Nations advocacy to combat the illegal trade in wildlife and to encourage States Members of the United Nations to take action to implement CITES and relevant international commitments, including in relation to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNDOC). Work is under way on these elements, guided by discussions between UNEP, CITES, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. It is anticipated that the requisite documentation will be made available by August 2015.

11. In its resolution 69/314 on tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife, the General Assembly reaffirmed the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, in which the economic, social and environmental impact of illicit trafficking in wildlife was recognized, as was the need for firm and strengthened action to be taken on both the supply and demand sides, and the importance in that regard of effective international cooperation among relevant multilateral environmental agreements and international organizations.

12. In addition, implementation of United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/3 is well under way through the provision of support to member States in strengthening national, regional and global responses to the illegal trade in wildlife. Activities benefit from strong collaboration with UNDP and other partners, including the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime, UNODC, CITES, International Criminal Police Organization, World Bank and World Customs Organization.

13. The implementation of resolution 1/3 is related to the implementation of resolution 11.31 on fighting wildlife crime and offences within and beyond borders, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species at its eleventh meeting. In that regard, UNEP is using its comparative advantage in terms of regional coordination, policy support and implementation of relevant multilateral environmental agreements, including programmatic support to the Convention on Migratory Species and its agreements on species subject to illegal trade. UNEP is engaged in developing and implementing the environmental rule of law, improving the capacity of frontline customs officials and other enforcement officers and enhancing coordination and collaboration at the national and regional levels for effective transboundary enforcement, reinforcing the raising of awareness of the problems and risks associated with the supply and transit of, and demand for, illegal wildlife products, including of migratory species such as elephants, birds, sturgeon, turtles, manta rays and sharks.

14. The work of UNEP includes ongoing support to CITES and the African Elephant Fund, the further promotion of the environmental rule of law to combat the illegal trade in wildlife and the initiation of a comprehensive awareness-raising strategy on the implications of the illegal trade in wildlife. A new



website (www.africanelephantfund.org) was presented to the range States at the last meeting of the African Elephant Fund Steering Committee, held in November 2014, together with other visibility materials created to market the Fund.

15. In support of target 15 of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015–2023, UNEP is strengthening international efforts to develop and catalyse demand reduction strategies for illegally-sourced wildlife products by Governments and local partners, including through the initiation of a comprehensive awareness-raising strategy on the implications of the illegal wildlife trade and engaging with high-profile UNEP goodwill ambassadors.

2. Regional level

16. UNEP regional biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreement focal points for Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean have been supporting the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015–2023 and, in particular, resolution 11.10 on synergies and partnerships, in which the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species requested the secretariat and invited the secretariats of other conventions to continue liaising with UNEP regional multilateral environmental agreement focal points for biodiversity and ecosystems and to make best use of their role in assisting in the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements.

17. In close liaison with the Convention on Migratory Species secretariat, inputs were made by the regional biodiversity multilateral environmental agreements focal point for Asia and the Pacific at the ninth UNEP-China Annual Consultation, held in Bangkok on 22 and 23 January 2015, highlighting to the Government of China the importance of the country making further efforts to accede to the Convention.

18. Furthermore, through the regional biodiversity multilateral environmental agreements focal point for Asia and the Pacific, UNEP is providing support for the planning and organization of a capacity-building workshop for non-parties in South-East Asia to accede to the Convention on Migratory Species, to be held in Manila from 27 to 29 October 2015. The workshop is being hosted by the Government of the Philippines, and co-convened with the secretariat of the Convention and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Centre for Biodiversity.

19. The UNEP regional biodiversity multilateral environmental agreements focal point for Latin America and the Caribbean is also supporting the Convention in the recruitment of new parties in the region by assisting in the planning and organization of a high-level capacity-building workshop for non-parties in Latin America to accede to the Convention, to be held in Panama City from 22 to 24 September 2015.

B. Implementation of resolutions and decisions

20. This section summarizes actions taken at the regional and global level by UNEP in support of the implementation of resolutions adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species.

1. Resolution 11.3 on enhancing synergies and common services among CMS family instruments

21. UNEP is currently working on a variety of updates and new features to further develop the online reporting system to support national reporting processes to multilateral environmental agreements. That work is being carried out as part of phase II of the African, Caribbean and Pacific multilateral environmental agreements project, which aims to support African, Caribbean and Pacific countries to meet their obligations under the multilateral environmental agreements. Updates include improved speed and a solid code foundation to facilitate the further development and implementation of a more intuitive user design. The UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) is consulting with a number of secretariats to multilateral environmental agreements (including the Convention on Migratory Species) and with parties to inform the development process through group meetings and one-to-one interviews through an online reporting system user steering group.

22. UNEP also continues to provide training and support on the use of the current system to the secretariat staff of the Convention on Migratory Species, the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds, CITES and the Convention on the Conservation of European



Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention). The Convention on Migratory Species and the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement have now both used the online reporting system for their national reporting cycles. UNEP is discussing with other multilateral environmental agreements their possible adoption of the tool.

23. UNEP-WCMC continues to maintain and update Species+, which provides information relevant to the implementation of CITES and the Convention on Migratory Species. Species+, developed by UNEP-WCMC in conjunction with the CITES secretariat, was launched in November 2013 to assist parties in implementing CITES, the Convention on Migratory Species and other multilateral environmental agreements. Species+ contains taxonomic, distribution and listing information on all species listed in the Convention on Migratory Species appendices and other family agreements and memorandums of understanding, as well as information on species listed in the CITES appendices (see <http://speciesplus.net>). Species+ is searchable by higher taxonomic groups and countries of distribution and offers an easy way to download tailored species lists by country, thereby supporting national focal points in their implementation of the Convention on Migratory Species. Liaison with the Convention secretariat is under way to explore options for making Species+ and the Convention species database interoperable.

24. Biodiversity data held in the Species+ database, the CITES Trade Database, the World Database on Protected Areas and the Ocean Data Viewer (<http://data.unep-wcmc.org>) all continue to be publicly available and accessible via the Internet.

2. Resolution 11.7 on enhancing the effectiveness of the convention through a process to review implementation

25. UNEP-WCMC presented the 2014 analysis and synthesis of the Convention on Migratory Species national reports at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention. The analysis provided an overview of the status of implementation of the Convention as reflected in the information submitted by parties in their national reports. It set out a number of recommendations, on the basis of the conclusions drawn, for the consideration of the parties, with the aim of improving the implementation of the Convention. Specific capacity-building needs were identified by parties throughout the report. It is hoped that the report will be of value in determining approaches for assessing and enhancing the effectiveness of the Convention. A similar analysis of national reports is currently being compiled by UNEP-WCMC for the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement in preparation for the sixth session of the parties to the Agreement in November 2015.

3. Resolution 11.10 on synergies and partnerships

26. UNEP-WCMC organized a meeting entitled “Expert meeting on enhancing efficiency and effectiveness of MEA implementation: interoperability between reporting systems” in Geneva on 15 and 16 December 2014. The meeting was co-hosted by the CITES secretariat and UNEP-WCMC, under the auspices of the Multilateral Environmental Agreement Information and Knowledge Management (MEA-IKM) initiative and was made possible through the generous support of the Federal Office for the Environment of Switzerland. It was convened in response to recommendations made at the fifth meeting of the MEA-IKM steering committee and sought to increase alignment in approaches to online reporting and the sharing of resulting data and information across the biodiversity conventions and into broader global processes. The meeting brought together experts on national reporting and the development of national reporting systems with the aim of identifying actions needed for enhanced interoperability among the various biodiversity-related online reporting systems. Participants included representatives from the eight biodiversity-related convention secretariats, as well as individual experts from Governments and agencies with a thorough understanding of the reporting systems and the reporting landscape. The outcomes of the meeting included a series of recommendations for enhancing synergies and interoperability across systems (see also further details on the development of the online reporting system under resolution 11.3).

27. The NBSAP Forum, launched in 2013 and hosted by UNEP, the Convention on Biological Diversity, UNDP and UNEP-WCMC, continues to provide ongoing support to national capacity and knowledge-sharing in the revision and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAP) and has rapidly become the global, one-stop shop for finding NBSAP-related resources and for learning and knowledge-sharing between countries. Through peer and expert review of NBSAPs by



technical specialists facilitated through the NBSAP Forum, it is recommended that NBSAPs should be an instrument for implementation of all the biodiversity-related conventions, including the Convention on Migratory Species, as a means to promote coherence in the national implementation of multilateral environmental agreements.

28. In addition, UNEP launched the *Sourcebook of Opportunities for Enhancing Cooperation among the Biodiversity-related Conventions at National and Regional Levels*, published in May 2015. The Sourcebook includes a chapter (chapter 6) dedicated to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and NBSAPs. The Sourcebook was developed in 2014, working closely with the secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions, including the Convention on Migratory Species secretariat, and with national focal points in many countries. Its aim is to provide national focal points and other stakeholders working on those conventions with options to achieve enhanced implementation of the conventions through enhanced cooperation. As one of the five thematic sections of the Sourcebook, chapter 6 focuses on NBSAPs as instruments for the implementation of all the biodiversity-related conventions and highlights the special momentum created through the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 in the achievement of that outcome. It provides practical examples, checklists, lessons learned and case studies from around the world that represent a source of inspiration for those countries interested in exploring opportunities within their own national and local circumstances. UNEP, with the support of UNEP-WCMC, will use this new resource as a basis for promoting and facilitating the further exchange of experience among national focal points by providing workshops, tools and resources that increase the capacity of stakeholders to work towards a more coherent implementation of the conventions at the national and regional levels. The UNEP regional offices will play a key role in those activities. As a first step, an e-learning module, based on chapter 6 of the Sourcebook, is currently being developed.

29. The secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species has provided input to the UNEP-WCMC project entitled “Mapping MEAs to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets”, commissioned by the Ministry of Environment of Finland. This project seeks to start the process of developing a coherent, up-to-date compilation of all the guidance related to the achievement of aspects of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets provided through the decisions and related programmes, plans and support tools of six biodiversity-related conventions: the Convention on Migratory Species, Convention on Biological Diversity, CITES, International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat and the World Heritage Convention. This mapping exercise will help to identify potential opportunities for joint approaches and further cooperation and collaboration.

30. UNEP played a substantial role in the establishment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and continues to support the Platform through the administration of its secretariat and trust fund, the secondment of staff and consultants, and technical support provided for a number of Platform deliverables. At the fourth session of the Plenary of the Platform, to be held in 2016, the first assessments will be reviewed. A number of other assessments that are more relevant to the Convention on Migratory Species are beginning to make progress. At the same time, other assessments, including a global assessment, are being scoped. It is intended that those assessments and other Platform deliverables will help to serve the needs of all the biodiversity-related conventions, including the Convention on Migratory Species family.

31. UNEP-WCMC continues to coordinate the secretariat of the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership. The Partnership continues to support the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 through the delivery of indicators for the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. In 2014, it utilized the global indicators to provide past, current and future trend information (extrapolations to 2020) for the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook report (GBO-4). Over the next few years, the Partnership will work to enhance and expand its suite of indicators for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and other processes, such as the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals. It will also undertake regional capacity-building work to support the development of national and regional indicators.

32. Using its network of regional biodiversity multilateral environmental agreements focal points, UNEP is planning a South-South knowledge-sharing workshop on the legal preparedness for NBSAP



implementation, focusing on selected countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific in the fourth quarter of 2015. The purpose of the workshop is to strengthen existing biodiversity-specific legislation or to develop new legislation that is required to ensure the effective implementation of NBSAPs in those countries.

33. After the workshop, there will be follow-up with participating countries to complete the compilation of information for case studies and to summarize the information to develop key policy recommendations and guidance to countries to strengthen their legal preparedness. In addition, a publication will be developed, containing compiled case studies, recommendations and guidance, as well as a collection of useful resource materials that could be used by countries.

34. In the region of Latin America and the Caribbean, UNEP is providing support to the Convention on Migratory Species' Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks through assistance in the planning and organization of a capacity-building workshop to be held in Costa Rica in March 2016.

4. Resolution 11.16 on the prevention of illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds

35. Work is under way on an analysis compiling and synthesizing available and updated information on the environmental impact of the illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products for consideration by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its second session in May 2016, strengthening the evidence base for policymakers, including Governments, civil society organizations, local communities and the private sector, so that they can make informed decisions and design effective interventions to address the matter.

36. The report will build on existing knowledge, moving beyond the current attention on the poaching crisis facing African elephants and rhinos, to take into account the diverse and global nature of the challenge and to address a wider range of ecological threats from illegal harvesting and trafficking, including of timber, great apes, reptiles, bush meat, tigers, bears, coral, birds, pangolins and fish. The focus of the analysis will provide an opportunity to review the environmental dimensions of illegal trade, enhancing the knowledge base for further development of policy support tools and building capacity to secure the foundations of future projects addressing illegal wildlife trade.

37. UNEP is collaborating with the African Union Commission to support the development of an African common strategy on combating illegal trade in wild flora and fauna in Africa. In this context, UNEP participated in the International Conference on Illegal Trade of Wildlife in Brazzaville from 27 to 30 April 2015. African member States at the Conference adopted a united declaration, and approved an initial strategy which, with ongoing support from UNEP, will be expounded upon and will undergo a process of more in-depth regional consultation and further consideration by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its fifteenth session in March 2016 and at the African Union summit in June 2016.

38. UNEP has been supporting Botswana and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in their follow-up initiatives to the African Elephant Summit held in Gaborone in December 2013 and the London Conference on the Illegal Wildlife Trade held in London in February 2014. UNEP provided technical support to the preparations of the Kasane Conference on the Illegal Wildlife Trade held in Kasane, Botswana, in March 2015, including contributing to the development of the Kasane statement, the main outcome of the Conference. UNEP will continue to collaborate with and support countries in the implementation of the commitments emanating from those meetings.

39. A UNEP internal workshop was convened from 20 to 22 April 2015 in order to develop a common understanding and clear vision amongst participants of the UNEP mandate, role and strategic and communications priorities in relation to its ongoing work to address the illegal trade in wildlife and timber products. The workshop was attended by more than 40 staff from the relevant divisions and regional offices. Participants discussed and agreed upon a set of corporate policies in relation to illegal trade, achieving greater coherence and establishing links between the policy, legal and communications components of a consolidated UNEP illegal trade in wildlife and timber products strategy. Following discussions on the vision and overall outcome of UNEP work on illegal trade, high-level outcome statements were developed with the aim of ending the illegal trade in wildlife and timber products.



5. Resolution 11.26 on the programme of work on climate change and migratory species

40. Knowledge of marine and coastal data sets tends to be fragmented and/or difficult to access for the non-expert or ad hoc data user. In 2014, in order to address this lack of information, UNEP-WCMC released the *Manual of Marine and Coastal Datasets of Biodiversity Importance* (<http://wcmc.io/MarineDataManual>), which provides an overview (including gaps and limitations) of global marine and coastal data sets of biodiversity importance. This non-exhaustive review has resulted in the identification of 78 data sets or databases and data portals. An updated manual will be released in 2015, providing further technical support to policymakers and researchers seeking and using datasets on the global distribution of species, habitats, areas of biodiversity importance, environmental descriptors, ecological status and impact, and biogeographical classifications.

6. Resolution 11.27 on renewable energy and migratory species

41. The UNEP-WCMC Ocean Data Viewer provides easy access to more than 30 global data sets that are useful for informing decisions regarding the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity, including migratory species. In particular, the Ocean Data Viewer currently hosts spatial data for 10 species of marine mammals, as predicted using the AquaMaps approach (www.aquamaps.org). The viewer also provides access to spatial data on the global distribution of sea turtle nesting and feeding sites. Those data can be used to inform screening processes in the context of planned renewable energy infrastructure.

7. Resolution 11.31 on fighting wildlife crime and offences within and beyond borders

42. Work to implement resolution 1/3 on the illegal trade in wildlife of the United Nations Environment Assembly is related to resolution 11.31 on fighting wildlife crime and offences within and beyond borders. UNEP is using its comparative advantage in terms of regional coordination, policy support and the implementation of relevant multilateral environmental agreements, including by providing programmatic support to the Convention on Migratory Species and its agreements on species subject to illegal trade; developing and implementing the environmental rule of law; building the capacity of frontline customs officials and other enforcement officers and enhancing coordination and collaboration at the national and regional levels for effective transboundary enforcement; reinforcing the raising of awareness of the problems and risks associated with the supply of, transit in, and demand for illegal wildlife products, including of migratory species such as elephants, birds, sturgeon, turtles, manta rays and sharks.

III. Administrative support to the Convention on Migratory Species

A. Delegation of authority

43. Following the recruitment of Bradnee Chambers as Executive Secretary of the Convention on Migratory Species, a new delegation of authority between the Executive Director of UNEP and the Executive Secretary of the Convention, together with the executive secretaries of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement and the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats, where indicated, was signed in September 2013. The delegation of authority supersedes previous delegations of authority from the Executive Director of UNEP.

44. Since 1 June 2015, UNEP, including the multilateral environmental agreements for which it provides secretariat functions, has been operating with the support of the new enterprise resource planning system “Umoja”. Umoja has facilitated automation, which has had a positive impact on workflows and reporting. The introduction of Umoja has necessitated certain changes in processes and procedures, particularly with respect to procurement and travel.

45. Certain aspects of the delegations of authority (particularly with regard to procurement and travel) need to be amended to reflect those changes. Revised delegations of authority, incorporating Umoja functionalities, were shared with the executive secretaries of the Convention on Migratory Species, African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement and the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats on 6 June 2015.



B. Support provided to the Convention from programme support costs

46. The United Nations refers to the indirect costs usually expressed as a percentage of direct costs (at a rate of 13 per cent) that it collects on trust fund (or extrabudgetary) expenditure as programme support costs. In respect of UNEP and the UNEP-administered multilateral environmental agreements, the recovery and use of programme resource cost resources are of central importance to the financing and organization of efficient and effective programme support services. That is also the case for the secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species.

47. In accordance with United Nations standard procedures, the level of resources available to the UNEP and Convention on Migratory Species secretariats for programme support in any given year is based on the income received for that purpose in the previous year. Under the current arrangement, the secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species receives 67 per cent of the programme support costs generated by the previous year's delivery of the programme of work against its respective trust funds.

48. During the year 2014, the posts of seven administrative staff directly assigned to the Convention secretariat were funded from programme support costs. These included the Administrative and Finance Officer (P-4), two Finance Assistants (G-5 and G-6), and two Administrative Assistants (G-5) all based in Bonn, Germany, a Finance Assistant (G-6) based in Bangkok and an Administrative Assistant (G-6) based in Abu Dhabi.

49. Programme support costs were also used to finance staff development training to ensure the smooth implementation of Umoja, which went live on 1 June 2015.

50. All Convention trust funds continue to be administered by the Executive Director of UNEP and have been extended to 31 December 2017 by resolution 1/16 on the management of trust funds and earmarked contributions, adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its first session.

C. Additional information on administrative matters for the Conference of the Parties

51. In order to complement the efforts to strengthen the relationship between UNEP and the multilateral environmental agreements it administers, the Executive Director of UNEP established a task team comprising representatives of the secretariats of those agreements and the relevant offices of the UNEP secretariat. The task team commenced consultations on the effectiveness of administrative arrangements and programmatic cooperation at its first meeting held on 3 February 2014.

52. The task team is chaired by the Deputy Executive Director, and the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Migratory Species serves as Vice-Chair. Two working groups – one on administrative arrangements and the other on programmatic cooperation – have been established under the task team, chaired by representatives of the secretariats of CITES and the Convention on Biological Diversity respectively. The task team has met on six occasions and the working group on programmatic cooperation has concluded its report and submitted it to the task team. The working group on administrative arrangements is in the process of finalizing its report. The task team will then prepare a report based on the inputs of the two working groups for the consideration of the Executive Director.

53. A final report will be submitted to the open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives in October 2015, with a view to presenting the issue to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its second session, in accordance with resolution 1/12 of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

54. In line with recommendations made at the multilateral environmental agreements management team meeting held on 19 June 2015 in Vienna, and in order to further strengthen relations between UNEP and the secretariats, the Executive Director has appointed the following multilateral environmental agreement focal points in UNEP:

(a) Jiří Hlaváček, Special Adviser and Head of MEAs Support and Coordination in the Division of Environmental Law and Conventions, as the focal point for supporting and strengthening programmatic collaboration with multilateral environmental agreements. As programmatic focal point, he will oversee a cultural change in the relations between UNEP and UNEP-administered convention



secretariats, with a focus on encouraging, enhancing, enabling and strengthening coordination and cooperation, as well as a move towards timely, regular consultations on relevant programmatic matters. In addition, he will oversee the implementation of recommendations made by the multilateral environmental agreement task team working group on programmatic cooperation;

(b) Hemini Vrontamitis, of the Office for Operations and Corporate Services, as the multilateral environmental agreement focal point for assistance and follow-up on operational and administrative matters. As focal point, she will ensure streamlined cooperation between UNEP and the multilateral environmental agreement secretariats, responsiveness and accountability to administrative issues in the area of human resources, including mediation and litigation, corporate legal counsel, delegations of authority, partnerships and contributions, Umoja, procurement, travel, delegations and finance, as well as training in those areas.

55. The programmatic focal point in the Division of Environmental Law and Conventions, in cooperation with the operations focal point in the Office for Operations and Corporate Services, will support the work and meetings of the UNEP multilateral environmental agreement management team and ensure that UNEP provides consolidated, appropriate and timely inputs in preparation for conferences or meetings of parties. The designation of the focal points on programmatic and administrative issues responds to the call for more streamlined processes that will lead to greater accountability, responsibility and responsiveness, enabling progress, bottlenecks and challenges to be tracked.

56. The internal audit division of the United Nations, the Office of Internal Oversight Services, conducted an audit on the Convention and submitted its final report on 6 August 2014. The Office made six important recommendations, of which only one has not yet been responded to, namely: "The Executive Secretary of the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals should complete a review of grading of posts in the secretariat as requested by the Conference of Parties." UNEP has accepted that recommendation and advised the Office for Internal Oversight Services that the Convention on Migratory Species will seek extrabudgetary resources to conduct the review with a view to submitting it to the twelfth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention in 2017.