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| **WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** |  | **INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION (OF UNESCO) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** |
| **Argos Joint Tariff Agreement**  **Thirty Sixth SESSION**  LA JOLLA, CALIF. USA,  24-26 OCTOBER 2016 |  | JTA-36/ Doc. 10  (Draft on: 8-Sept. 2016)  **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  ITEM: 10  ENGLISH ONLY |

**NATIONAL REPORTS**

*(Submitted by the Representatives of Country (ROCs))*

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| **Summary and purpose of the document**  This document provides the reports on Argos related national activities during the last intersessional period (2015-16) |

**ACTION PROPOSED**

The Meeting will be invited to comment, and particularly make decisions or recommendations, as appropriate, on the following topics:

1. (a) Note and comment on the information contained in this document; and

(b) Take into account the contents of the report when discussing relevant agenda items.

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**Appendices**: National reports from Australia, Canada, China, Germany, India, New Zealand, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, UAE, and USA.

**NATIONAL REPORTS**

[1. xxxAustralia 2](#_Toc461104313)

[2. xxxChina 3](#_Toc461104314)

[3. United Arab Emirates 4](#_Toc461104315)

# xxxAustralia

**JTA National Report**

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| **Year** | **2016** |
| **Country** | **Australia** |

# xxxChina

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| **Year** | **2016** |
| **Country** | **China** |

# United Arab Emirates

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| **Year** | **2015-16** |
| **Country** | **United Arab Emirates** |

**Section 1. Overall Summary**

The United Arab Emirates had eight active programs, out of the total 12 programs registered in the country. Of the 12, 2 are on hold, one completed and for one there no feedback was received. All the registered programs in the country are on wildlife. Of the active programs, seven are on birds, and one marine turtle.one on marine mammal and another on fishes. A major project on sea turtles was completed last year. The Gulf Green Turtle Project (2016-2019), a EWS-WWF regional initiative aimed to help form a robust regional baseline upon which strategies can be designed to address species population priorities, rather than solely focusing on fragmented national actions that do not benefit highly migratory species. The project will work with local and regional partners to investigate habitat use and hotspot areas for green sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas*), as these comprise the most abundant turtle species in the inner Gulf region and the second most abundant in Oman, and are listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List. The use of Argos program in the UAE has been highly successful in improving the conservation of the tracked species and their habitats.

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| **Family** | **Program Number** | **Program Name** | **Organization** | **Program Manager** | **Status** |
| Bird | 1440 | Wildlife in Asia and Africa | International Fund For Houbara Conservation | Mohammed S. Al Baidani | Active |
| Bird | 3763 | Emirates Centre for the Conservation of Houbara | Emirates Centre for the Conservation of Houbara (ECCH) Uzbekistan. | Yves Choquet | Active |
| Bird | 3416 | Survey of Houbara bustard | ECWP (Emirates Centre for Wildlife Propagation) Morocco. | Yves Hingrat | Active |
| Bird | 4162 | Post-natal dispersal of Houbara bustards | Emirates Bird Breeding Centre for the Conservation of Houbara-Abu Dhabi (EBBCC) | Keith Scotland | Active |
| Bird | 3657 | Birds Arabia | Environment Agency | Salim Javed | Active |
| Dugong | 23657 | Dugongs in AD (sub program of 3657) | Environment Agency | Himansu Das | On hold |
| Bird | 5421 | Socotra cormorant foraging ecology | United Arab emirates university | Sabir Muzaffar | Completed |
| Marine Animals | 5073 | Burj al Arab | Burj al Arab | Warren Baverstock | Not Known |
| Fish | 15073 | Fish Tag | Warren Baverstock | Warren Baverstock | Active |
| Marine Animals | 4189 | Gulf turtle project (sub-program 4189) | Emirates Wildlife Society-WWF | Lisa Perry Shrake | Active |
| Land Animals | 24189 | Ungulates (sub-program 4189) | Emirates Wildlife Society-WWF | Lisa Perry Shrake | On hold |
| Birds | 2180 | Falcons (Saker, Peregrine & Gyr) | Environment Agency-Abu Dhabi (IWC) | Andrew Dixon | Active |

**Section 2. Future Plans**

Under program 3657 deployments are planned on more migratory raptors and few indivdiuals of Shelducks. Under program 4189, plans are to continue monitoring marine turtles in the region and the project aims to track 75 green turtles within the next 3 years gathering on migration paths and linkages between foraging and nesting populations within the important Gulf biogeographic region. This project will track post-nesting adult turtles as they depart from their nesting sites, and adults captured in foraging grounds using satellite technology.

Data resulting from this work will inform managers of critical in–water habitats utilised by Arabian turtles, and allow them to aim concerted conservation activities, including fishery regulation where applicable, to preserve turtles through all phases of their live cycle.

Under Program 4162, 47 trasnmitters are currently actives deployed on Houbara, these are mainly focused in the Bukhara region at this time, but throughout the year they range from Kazakhstan through to Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan and close to the Northern border of India. In the future, the program will continue to use the technology to gather data on population change, breeding productivity, juvenile and adult survival, and the survival and migratory performance of released captive-bred Houbara.

**Section 3. Technological Changes that affect User Requirements**

Under Program 5421 the work on Socotra Cormorant, a seabird, transmitters seemed to have generally low life compared to what was expected. It was later determined that there was a programming error from the manufacturers of the Sirtrack PTTs, which ended transmitting prematurely. All deployed transmitters (8 were deployed in 2013 and 4 were withheld) were replaced by Sirtrack. A total of 11 PPTs were deployed in November 2014. These were successfully tracked with some of them transmitting up to June 2015. The data has been analyzed and a manuscript outlining foraging activities is now currently under preparation. There are no further deployments planned under the current program.

**Section 4. User issues, problems, and level of satisfaction with Argos**

Apparently no issues and in general satisfaction in the use of technology for bird projects. The Gulf Green Turtle Project has just started and there are not issues to report at this time.

**Section 5. Successful programme use of Argos**

The Gulf Green Turtle Project has recently started and there are not results related to the success of the using ARGOS for the achievement of project objectives at this time. The bird program has successfully tracked many species, including recently the globally threatened Egyptian Vulture and has provided useful information on movement and migration patterns of several important migratory bird species. Under program 2180, six papers were published in various international journals on tracking of migratory falcons.

Several papers have already been published as a direct result of this partnership, and we also use the data generated in this research to help us in our decision making with our policy of utilizing the Houbara in a sustainable way. Previously our scope of work was limited to the Bukhara region of Uzbekistan, but this has now spread to incorporate a second large area in West Uzbekistan as of this year.

**Section 6. Analysis of Local Operational Issues**

Preparing national report is a challenge as out of the entire registered programs, only two provided their reports. May be it’s not really a very viable option to prepare a national report.