

CMS COP10: OUTCOMES RELEVANT TO EUROBATS

Prepared by the UNEP/CMS Secretariat

1. The 10th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP10) to CMS took place on 20-25 November 2011 at Bergen, Norway. Important decisions are reflected in the 29 Resolutions adopted by the Conference. This document outlines the key outcomes from COP10 of relevance to the EUROBATS.

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

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

CMS Strategic Plan 2015–2023 - Resolution 10.5

3. One of the major COP decisions concerned the establishment of an intersessional Working Group (WG) to develop the future CMS Strategic Plan 2015-2023. The WG met on 5-6 November 2012 to review the preliminary findings of the process. The whole CMS Family, including EUROBATS through its Secretariat, will be invited to provide their views to ensure that the Strategic Plan is aligned with the mandate of each individual instrument. Further details are included in a separate statement.

Capacity Building Strategy (2012-2014) - Resolution 10.6

4. The Resolution emphasizes the importance of increased cooperation within the CMS Family with a view to developing tools that would strengthen the capacity of Parties and Signatories to CMS instruments. Earlier this year, the European Commission¹ sponsored the project titled *‘Effective Implementation of CMS Family Instruments across Various Regions & Languages through Capacity Building’* for the period 2012–2014. This project focusses on supporting African countries through result-based capacity building and strengthening activities to implement CMS and its instruments. Currently, steps are being taken to develop a manual and an interactive e-learning tool for both the National Focal Points and Contact Points for the CMS instruments.

Outreach and Communication Issues - Resolution 10.7

Web-based database and new CMS Family website

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

Online Reporting System

¹ Funds came from the *‘The Thematic Programme for Environment and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources including Energy (ENRTP) Strategic Cooperation Agreement (SCA) between the European Commission - DG Environment and UNEP’*.

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

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

7. The COP acknowledged the importance of integrating measures to conserve migratory species into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and during implementation of national biodiversity targets. The Resolution requests Parties to make use of the relevant Guidelines (UNEP/CMS/Conf.10.27²) which could also assist Parties to EUROBATS in aligning their National or plans with NBSAPs.

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

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

Wildlife Disease and Migratory Species – Resolution 10.22

9. The COP extended the CMS mandate on wildlife diseases by changing the name of the ad hoc Scientific Task Force to ‘Scientific Task Force on Wildlife and Ecosystem Health’, to reflect more comprehensively the ‘One Health’ approach to integrating wildlife, livestock, human and ecosystem health issues. The Resolution requests the Task Force to liaise with relevant organizations with a view to coordinating recommendations and on-going global initiatives in the field of global wildlife disease surveillance, early detection, including outbreaks of domestic livestock disease with the potential to affect wildlife. The CMS Secretariat is tasked to disseminate the findings and products of the Task Force’s work.

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

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

- Alignment with international environmental governance reform.
- Improved partnership working, which foresees closer collaboration with other MEAs, IGOs, NGOs and the private sector.
- Enhancing scientific research and information, e.g. in connection with the development of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).
- Enhancing communication and seeking opportunities to develop awareness of CMS and CMS Family, e.g. through a redesign of the website.
- Carry out a global gap analysis at the Convention level and to assess resources appropriateness.
- Coordinated strategic plans for the CMS Family.
- Restructuring of the Scientific Council to maximize expertise and knowledge capacity.
- Identifying opportunities for cooperation and coordination at the local and regional level through the creation of synergies based on geography, to be achieved by means of greater regional presence through coordinators with assistance from UNEP, NGOs, Parties and MEAs
- Harmonization and interoperability of information management and reporting systems where appropriate and applicable for the CMS Family.
- Strengthening the coordination and servicing of MoUs, by ensuring appropriate staffing levels

² http://www.cms.int/bodies/COP/cop10/docs_and_inf_docs/doc_27_guidelines_nbsap_e.pdf

of the CMS Agreements Unit.

- Seek opportunities to coordinate meetings between institutions, working groups and across the CMS Family instruments.
- Actions to prioritize the growth of CMS and the CMS Family.
- Seeking opportunities to expand and develop capacity-building across the CMS Family, e.g. by CMS providing centralized related services.
- Seeking opportunities to expand and enhance fundraising activities, by coordinating with partners and stakeholders.
- Enhanced collaboration between CMS agreements, by (a) cooperation and coordination between agreement programmes and projects based on species clustering, thematic issues or geography as appropriate, and (b) if appropriate, cooperation and coordination between agreement Secretariats e.g. based on species clustering or on geography.
- Monitoring of implementation.

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

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

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

Action requested

Given that many of the prioritized activities concern not only CMS but the entire CMS Family, including Parties to EUROBATS, the Meeting is invited to take note of the provisions included in the CMS Resolutions and to engage with their implementation as appropriate.



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme



Statement from CMS

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

Background

The 10th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) held in November 2011, endorsed [Resolution 10.5](#), which established a Working Group to draft a new CMS Strategic Plan for the period 2015-2023.

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

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

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

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

Summary

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

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

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

The SPWG Members confirmed their commitment to play a key role in mobilizing their regions in the development of the Strategic Plan but stressed the need for support to do so efficiently. The SPWG considered it of high importance to support the development of the draft Strategic Plan

through intensive consultations and agreed to develop an enhanced consultation process to support regional involvement as well as outreach at global level. This should allow close involvement not only of all CMS Parties through the regions, but also of all CMS instruments, other stakeholders and other MEAs.

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

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

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

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

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Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme



November 2012

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

Migratory Species and Conserving the World's Biodiversity!

The Way Forward – A Twin Track Approach

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

It should be a Strategic Plan for Migratory Species:

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

The Strategic Plan should be strategic:

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

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

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

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

1. A 'strategic' Strategic Plan for Migratory Species

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

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

- Identifying explicitly how migratory species contribute to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and how the Targets in turn will contribute to the objectives for conserving migratory species;
- Developing targets specific to migratory species, using the Aichi Targets as a framework but not restricted by them, so as to retain migratory species' identity and added-value.

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

2. A 'technical' Companion Volume for Implementation

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

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

Further steps

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

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

SPWG background and working documents can be found [here](#)¹.

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

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

- Making available communication and outreach material for use by SPWG members and other interested stakeholders (PowerPoint presentations and so on, available [here](#)²);
- Organizing expert meetings and/or regional consultations on the draft Strategic Plan;
- Raising the issue in the margins of relevant planned MEA meetings to engage Parties either individually or through back-to-back meetings; and
- Engaging the entire CMS Family through the SPWG, through discussions on the draft Plan during their own meetings, through electronic means, through meetings back to back with other meetings, and so on.

¹ http://www.cms.int/bodies/StC/strategic_plan_2015_2023_wg/strpln_wg_mainpage.htm

² http://www.cms.int/bodies/StC/strategic_plan_2015_2023_wg/strpln_wg_mainpage.htm

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