



**CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
SPECIES**

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Agenda Item 24.4.12

TRANSFRONTIER CONSERVATION AREAS FOR MIGRATORY SPECIES

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

Summary:

Resolution 10.3 on *The Role of Ecological Networks in the Conservation of Migratory Species* and Resolution 11.25 on *Advancing Ecological Networks to Address the Needs of Migratory Species* (being proposed for consolidation in document UNEP/CMS/COP12/Doc.21.2.11), set out a series of recommendations to advance the establishment of ecological networks. The draft decisions, contained in this document build on the recommendations of the Resolutions by requesting Parties with the support of the Secretariat to establish Transfrontier Conservation Areas.

Implementation of the attached draft Decisions will contribute towards the implementation of targets 1-3, 5, 7-11 and 14 of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015 – 2023.

TRANSFRONTIER CONSERVATION AREAS FOR MIGRATORY SPECIES

Background

1. Among the greatest drivers of species' decline are habitat fragmentation and loss. Apart from human population growth, common causes are unsustainable agriculture, logging, transport infrastructure, residential or commercial development, energy production and mining.¹
2. By joining CMS, Parties have acknowledged the importance of conserving species and their habitats (Article II). Furthermore, Parties that are Range States of a migratory species listed in Appendix I *"shall endeavour to conserve and, where feasible and appropriate, restore those habitats of the species which are of importance in removing the species from danger of extinction"* (Article III. 4. b).
3. The object of Agreements concluded for species listed on Appendix II *"should provide for conservation and, where required and feasible, restoration of the habitats of importance in maintaining a favourable conservation status of that species, and protection of such habitats from disturbances, including strict control of the introduction of, or control of already introduced, exotic species detrimental to the migratory species"* (Article V).
4. The CMS Conference of the Parties further refined their approaches to habitat conservation through a number of Resolutions. Resolution 10.3 on *The role of ecological networks in the conservation of migratory species* urges Parties *"to collaborate to identify, designate and maintain comprehensive and coherent ecological networks of protected sites and other adequately managed sites of international and national importance for migratory animals"*. CMS Resolution 11.14 on the *Programme of Work on Migratory Birds and Flyways* encourages Range States to participate in flyway conservation initiatives for all birds listed under CMS and its daughter instruments, while CMS Resolution 11.25 on *Advancing ecological networks to address the needs of migratory species* sets out standards to be applied in designing and implementing ecological networks.
5. By Resolution 11.25 the Conference of the Parties at its 11th meeting acknowledged *"progress made by some Parties and other Range States with the establishment of transboundary area-based conservation measures as a basis for ecological networks and promoting connectivity"*, highlighting the KAZA Treaty on Transfrontier Conservation Areas, signed by Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe on 18 August 2011, which is home to at least 50 per cent of all African Elephants (Appendix II), 25 per cent of African Wild Dogs (Appendix II) and substantial numbers of migratory birds and other CMS-listed species.

Transfrontier Conservation Areas

6. Many migratory species occupy large ranges, but generally, protected areas provide insufficient space for these animals. Ecological corridors or flyways are needed to enable migratory species to move between their habitats, including breeding, resting or feeding places. At a time when human population growth and agricultural expansion are rapidly reducing wildlife habitats, it is crucial to adopt approaches that accommodate the conservation needs of wildlife and the development needs of local communities.
7. Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs) have been defined in the Protocol on Wildlife Conservation and Law Enforcement of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) as *"the area or the component of a large ecological region that straddles the boundaries of two or more countries, encompassing one or more protected areas, as well as multiple resource use areas"*. The TFCA approach combines policies on wildlife conservation, community development and the promotion of culture and peace under one

¹ WWF Living Planet Report 2016

roof. Through the creation of TFCAs, a complex and diverse mosaic of land uses is brought under one shared or joint management structure.² The establishment of TFCAs allows Governments to plan and undertake both conservation and development at the scale of landscapes that incorporate entire ecosystems. This enables more effective conservation, more efficient use of natural resources, and a greater social and economic involvement of communities.³

8. TFCAs are established through the conclusion of bi- or multilateral agreements of the Parties sharing a transboundary, ecologically connected region. The conclusion of agreements also provides the opportunity to establish governance systems for the TFCAs, which allow local communities to participate in decision-making and management processes. Jointly developed conservation and management plans and strategies can determine further details to the implementation of the agreements and set a long-term vision for conservation action and sustainable development within a TFCA.
9. There are currently a number of TFCAs conceptualized in Africa, some of which, such as KAZA and Great Limpopo, already have advanced governance systems in place. The 15 TFCAs that have been conceptualized to date are: The Kavango-Zambezi (Angola, Namibia, Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe); Great Limpopo and Lubombo (Mozambique, Zambia and Swaziland); Kgalagadi TFNP (Botswana and Zambia); Lower Zambezi-Mana Pools (Zambia and Zimbabwe), Malawi-Zambia including North and South Luangwa (Malawi and Zambia); Luambe-Lukusizi-Kusungu (Malawi and Zambia); Iona-Skeleton Coast (Angola and Namibia); Mara-Serengeti-Ngorongoro (Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania); Rift Valley Lakes WHS-Natron (Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania); Greater Kilimanjaro (Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania); Niassa-Selous (the United Republic of Tanzania and Mozambique); Sudd-Badingilu-Boma-Gambella (Ethiopia and South Sudan); Imatongs-Kidepo (South Sudan and Uganda); Lake Tanganyika (the United Republic of Tanzania, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique); and the Greater Virunga (Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Uganda).
10. While the concept of TFCAs has been most advanced and implemented in Southern Africa, it provides a useful approach for combining wildlife conservation and sustainable development in other regions of the world as well. Most TFCAs have been conceptualized for terrestrial areas. The only TFCA conceptualized to date to include a coastal area is Iona-Skeleton coast in Angola/Namibia.

Discussion and analysis

11. By definition, CMS-listed species cross one or more national jurisdictional boundaries. The establishment of TFCAs, which incorporate habitat of CMS-listed species therefore supports the objective of CMS to conserve migratory species and their habitats. CMS has supported Parties in developing and implementing seven legally binding Agreements and 19 Memoranda of Understanding with numbers of contracting Parties ranging between two and over 80. CMS has also provided support to Parties with the development of numerous conservation and management plans to implement the Convention, Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding. The Convention is therefore well-placed to assist Parties with the establishment of TFCAs.

Recommended actions

12. The Conference of the Parties is recommended to adopt the draft Decisions contained in Annex 1 of this document.

² European Commission. *Larger Than Elephants. Inputs for an EU strategic approach to wildlife conservation in Africa.* European Union, 2015

³ Ibid.

DRAFT DECISIONS

TRANSFRONTIER CONSERVATION AREAS FOR MIGRATORY SPECIES

Directed to Parties

12.AA Parties are requested to:

- a) Identify transboundary habitats of CMS-listed species, for establishing transfrontier conservation areas (TFCAs), meaning the area or component of a large ecological region that straddles the boundaries of two or more countries, encompassing one or more protected areas, as well as multiple resource use areas;
- b) Develop jointly with the neighbouring Range States bi- or multilateral agreements to give the TFCAs identified formal status at the highest national level;
- c) Develop jointly with the Parties of the bi- or multilateral agreements and with the participation of local communities and stakeholders conservation and management plans for the identified TFCAs, benefitting wildlife and the sustainable development of the communities living within it.

Directed to the Secretariat

12.BB The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of external resources,

- a) Support Parties in implementing decision 12.AA;
- b) Report to the Standing Committee at its 48th and 49th meetings as well as the Conference of the Parties at its 13th meeting on the progress in implementing this decision.

Directed to Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations

12.CC Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to provide financial and technical support to implement decisions 12.AA and 12.BB.

Directed to the Standing Committee

12.DD The Standing Committee shall consider the report received from the Secretariat.