



# CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

Distr.  
GENERAL

UNEP/CMS/Conf. 8.6/Rev 1  
18 October 2005

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

---

EIGHTH MEETING OF THE  
CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES  
Nairobi, 20-25 November 2005  
Agenda item 11

## CMS and the 2010 Biodiversity Targets

### Background

1. At its 26th Meeting in July 2003, the CMS Standing Committee (StC) agreed that CMS should contribute to the work being led by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to develop a set of global indicators to measure the international community's achievement of the 2010 target – the significant reduction in the rate of loss of biological diversity by 2010. The Sixth Meeting of the CBD Conference of the Parties (COP) had originally agreed the target in April 2002. This was later endorsed in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation by the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in September 2002.
2. StC26 endorsed the development of a paper by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), and requested the Secretariat to announce CMS's intention to undertake the necessary work to contribute to the CBD process.
3. A statement was made at the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) (Montreal, 10-14 November 2003) expressing CMS's readiness to contribute to the process. This was later reflected in SBSTTA Recommendation IX/13, where SBSTTA welcomed "*the initiatives taken under...the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals that contribute to promoting and assessing progress towards the 2010 target.*" At its Seventh Meeting in Kuala Lumpur (9-20 February 2004) the CBD COP invited "*related conventions to contribute reports and information that assist the monitoring of progress towards the 2010 target*" (Decision VII/30).
4. The paper prepared by UNEP-WCMC was provided to the Twelfth Meeting of the CMS Scientific Council (Glasgow, 31 March-3 April 2004). The meeting discussed the 2010 target in two contexts: (i) in the context of the draft CMS Strategic Plan, where it was recommended that CMS's achievement of the 2010 target should figure more prominently; (ii) it undertook a limited discussion of a UNEP-WCMC paper on the progress made by CBD Secretariat in developing targets, objectives and global indicators for the achievement of the 2010 target and made a number of recommendations, including that the CMS Secretariat liaise with the CBD Secretariat to clarify the best inputs that CMS could make into its process.
5. A revision of the UNEP-WCMC paper was tabled at the twenty-seventh meeting of the Standing Committee (Bonn, 22-25 June 2004). A copy of the paper is provided in document UNEP/CMS/Inf. 8.22. The meeting was requested to consider the larger context and to provide some general guidance on how to proceed in this area and in particular considered a number of key interrelated issues, as follows:

- (i) the relationship between, and emphasis given to contributing migratory species indicators of success in achieving the 2010 target, while measuring the Convention's overall effectiveness in achieving the objectives expressed in the future Strategic Plan;
- (ii) in relation to the previous point, the need to develop supporting outcome-oriented targets and indicators under the new Strategic Plan;
- (iii) the availability, management and processing of information measuring successful outcomes both under the Strategic Plan and the achievement of the 2010 target;
- (iv) the need to develop partnerships - both within the CMS family and outside it - to develop the indicator(s), and to compile and use the necessary information for indicator development and reporting.

6. Main indications of the meeting pointed to focusing assessing the achievement of the Convention's strategic objectives and targets, with a 2010 indicator (or indicators) being one form of output of the assessment process, in effect of available data and information was seen as desirable in view of further consideration on how to proceed, possibly presenting them in graphic form and focusing on Appendix I species or a subset of them such as *CMS Concerted Action species*. The Secretariat was urged to look into the CBD's timetable and approach with a view to continuing the ongoing dialogue between the two conventions.

7. A report on progresses in the consideration of the 2010 Target within CMS was given by the Secretariat at the 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee (Bonn, 21-22 April 2005). Decisions of, and guidance from the meeting are referred to as appropriate making a link between the future Strategic Plan and CMS's impact on the ground. An assessment in the relevant sections of this paper.

8. At the third meeting of the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions on 10 May 2005 in Gland, Switzerland, the executive heads of the conventions, or their representatives, also agreed on the following areas or actions for enhanced cooperation:

(a) The framework of goals and targets to evaluate progress towards the 2010 target (adopted by Decision VII/30 of the Convention on Biological Diversity) can be applied—the necessary changes having been made—to all five conventions. In addition to adapting and modifying targets already developed by the Convention on Biological Diversity, the four other conventions could also develop specific targets for theirs and the use of the Convention on Biological Diversity. In this way, a common, flexible framework would provide a further basis for enhanced cooperation and coherence among the biodiversity-related conventions, at both the international and national level, helping to achieve the 2010 target;

(b) To promote coherence among the conventions in policy and implementation, it would be useful for each Convention, as appropriate, to adopt indicators that are consistent with the Framework of goals and targets. Many of the indicators developed for the Framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity —particularly those relating to biodiversity status and trends—are relevant to the other biodiversity-related conventions, or could be disaggregated to this end. For example, Red List Indicators specific to migratory species or to wetland species could be constructed.(For more information see also UNEP/CMS/Conf.8.15)

#### **Relationship between the 2010 target and the CMS Strategic Plan 2006-2011.**

9. The 2010 target has been considered in the further elaboration of the draft CMS Strategic Plan, notably at the workshop which took place in London from 2-4 March 2005. The issue is not considered in detail in this paper, and reference is made to Doc. UNEP/CMS/res.8.2, presenting the [draft] Strategic Plan 2006-2011.

10. Explicit reference to the relation between the 2010 target and the CMS Strategic Plan is given at the level of introduction of the document, where it is stated that “*This Strategic Plan, together with future*

*associated implementation plans for the various CMS bodies, represents the Convention's planned contribution to achieving the 2010 target, ...*”, thus indicating that the Strategic Plan will be the primary framework through which the Convention will contribute to achieving the target.

11. It should be noted that the WSSD/CBD 2010 target is a consensual target endorsed by all governments participating within the CBD framework and later endorsed by the WSSD process. Much of CMS's work is already geared to reducing the rate of biodiversity loss and therefore CMS is already contributing to reaching the target set. However to maximise the Convention's impact will require (1) a further focussing and implementation of the CMS work programme towards meeting the target with respect to migratory species, (2) periodically monitoring and evaluating the Strategic Plan's implementation by Contracting Parties (through national reports), CMS bodies, agreements developed under its auspices and key partners and by using the CMS Information Management System to process the information to measure conservation impact on the ground and then (3) reporting on CMS's achievements both internally and externally, most notably by making periodic input into the CBD process.

12. An important link also needs to be recognised between the CMS budget, the implementation of the Strategic Plan and the achievement of the 2010 target. The WSSD Plan of Implementation especially pointed out that *“achievement by 2010 of a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity will require the provision of new and additional financial and technical resources”*.

13. To make the link between the 2010 target and the CMS Strategic Plan will also require the development of biological indicators in the form of an index on migratory species. The revised draft of the Strategic Plan recognizes this, as it is briefly discussed in the next section of this note.

### **Development of Indicators**

14. The revised draft Strategic Plan's logical framework makes reference to indicators and milestones. For example the achievement of the Plan's high level goal – *To ensure the favourable conservation status of migratory species thereby contributing to global sustainability* – would be measured by the number of Appendix I species whose conservation status has improved as indicated by a CMS global index. Directly relevant to this and the development of indicators are targets 1.3 and 1.5 of the draft Strategic Plan, while target 1.1 is directly related to identified needs of management and processing of information to facilitate assessment of progress towards the 2010 target, and communication of this assessment.

15. The CMS migratory species index is envisioned to be a direct contribution to the CBD process and the work being undertaken in its framework to identify and use a series of regional and global indicators.

16. Developments have been followed by the Secretariat with support from UNEP-WCMC, mainly in the framework of CBD.

17. In May 2003, a meeting was convened in London jointly by the CBD Secretariat, UNEP-WCMC and UNDP on *‘2010 – The Global Biodiversity Challenge’*. The meeting was attended by the Chair of the CMS Standing Committee and the Chair of the CMS Scientific Council. The meeting recommended, *inter alia*, that a set of approximately ten key indicators be identified or developed, and that priority should be given to regional or global indicators.

18. The CBD SBSTTA discussed the issue at its 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting (Montreal, 10-14 November 2003). Subsequently, the CBD COP at its 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting (Kuala Lumpur, 9-20 February 2004) adopted decision VII/30, in which the COP *inter alia* agreed that a limited number of trial indicators be developed and used in reporting progress in achieving the 2010 target.

19. An Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) meeting for assessing progress towards the 2010 biodiversity target was convened by CBD in October 2004. The main objective of the meeting was to assist

the CBD SBSTTA in identifying or developing indicators for assessing progress at the global level, and communicating effectively trends in biodiversity. CMS was represented at the meeting by Mr. J. Harrison from UNEP-WCMC.

20. Of particular relevance to CMS, the AHTEG meeting proposed two species-related indicators, the Living Planet Index and the Red List Index, while noting that these should be used in conjunction with other information on species trends. These indicators were subsequently endorsed by the SBSTTA at its 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting (Bangkok, February 2005). Some further details and considerations on the possible relevance of these two indicators for CMS are given below.

#### *Living Planet Index (LPI)*

21. LPI was identified by the AHTEG meeting as the key method for illustrating trends in abundance and distribution of species, at global, regional and (sub-) national scale, as well as within biogeographic units, ecosystems or taxonomic groups. At the same time, the meeting made several observations and recommendations for its improvement.

22. Following the AHTEG meeting contacts has been undertaken among UNEP-WCMC, WWF, IUCN and BLI on further development of the LPI, of which the CMS Secretariat has been kept informed. The CMS Secretariat has been contacted by WWF with a proposal to consider the development of the Index for Migratory Species. The Secretariat has responded positively to this approach in informal discussions and meetings with WWF.

#### *Red List Index (RLI)*

23. RLI is being developed by partners in the Red List Consortium on the basis of the IUCN Red List. The RLI illustrates the relative rate at which species in a particular group change in overall threat status (i.e. projected relative extinction risk) as quantified by Red List categories.

24. Development of the index is at an advanced stage, and SBSTTA10 considered it ready for immediate testing. A presentation of the index was made at the Conference 'Biodiversity Science and Governance' (Paris, 24-28 January 2005) within a workshop on biodiversity indicators and the 2010 target. The index has already been tested on several subsets of species, including some of relevance to CMS and related agreements such as migratory birds, Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP). Preliminary results are also available in peer-reviewed scientific literature.

25. The twenty-eight meeting of the Standing Committee in April 2005 requested the Secretariat to continue liaising with partners to follow the developments of these indicators, particularly the Living Planet Index; it also requested the Scientific Council to consider at its next meeting the significance of these indicators for migratory species, both in the assessment and communication of progress in achieving the Convention's objectives and targets, and the achievement of the 2010 target, as well as the requirement for their effective application, with a view to providing advice to the COP on the way forward.

#### *Other instruments to assess the achievement of the 2010 target and the effectiveness of the Convention*

26. The Ramsar Convention has developed (for consideration by its COP9) indicators for assessing the Convention's effectiveness. Its Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) established an expert working group to develop a set of key outcome-oriented ecological indicators that should provide information about the achievement of the Ramsar Convention's objectives.

27. The working group held two meetings, selecting seven indicators to which the highest priority should be given. The choice was approved by the STRP meeting held in Gland, 1-4 February 2005, and fact sheets for each of the selected indicators are being developed. Among the selected indicators, those concerning taxon/species status would be more directly relevant to CMS interests.

28. The approach adopted by the Ramsar Convention concerning the development of indicators – i.e. develop them with the primary goal of measuring the implementation effectiveness of the convention, with the indicators concerned with the achievement of the 2010 target being seen as an output of this process - seems to correspond with the orientations that so far have been expressed within CMS on the same issue.

29. The 28<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to continue following the work on indicators within the Ramsar Convention, with a view to developing synergies where appropriate.

30. Another relevant exercise is the one undertaken within the Scientific Council, consisting in the preparation of rapid reviews of the conservation status and conservation actions undertaken for species of CMS interest. A preliminary report covering the 43 *CMS Concerted Action Species* (Res. Conf. 7.1) has been compiled by UNEP-WCMC and presented at ScC12. Information has been chiefly compiled from sources integrated through the *CMS Information Management System* (CMS IMS). These include internet sites and databases of specialised agencies, as well as data available from the *CMS Party Reports Database*, and at UNEP-WCMC.

31. These reviews were produced with the following objectives:

- To provide a concise overview of the conservation status for each species both at the global level as well as for, when known, each country in the distribution range of the taxon. Information on population trends is also included when available;
- To provide a concise overview of the conservation actions reported by Parties to CMS, as well as of the conservation actions known to be in place at each country in the distribution range of the taxon;
- To assess the amount of information available within, and through, the CMS IMS, and to identify other relevant sources of online specialist information which could be interconnected through the CMS IMS for future reference.

32. The UNEP-WCMC report is expected to be given further consideration at the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Scientific Council both in term of structure and content. The Standing Committee requested the Council to consider options for the further development of the report with a view to assessing progress in achieving the Convention's objectives, in conjunction with possible indicators.

33. Another instrument currently available within CMS that has to potential to contribute to assess the status of migratory species is the Global Register of Migratory Species (GROMS). GROMS consolidates and summarizes conservation-relevant information on migratory species in a relational database, conceived to provide an additional tool for fact finding and decision-making by the CMS bodies and the related regional Agreements. More information on the GROMS and specific recommendations are provided in document UNEP/CMS/Conf.8.12. Decisions of the Conference of the Parties on the future of GROMS might address *inter alia* how it could contribute to assess progress in achieving the 2010 target and the Convention's objectives.

---