



## CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

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EIGHTH MEETING OF THE  
CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES  
Nairobi, 20-25 November 2005  
Agenda item 15 (b)

### IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CMS INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (IMS)

*(Prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with UNEP-WCMC)*

1. The availability of reliable, scientific information is one of the greatest challenges the CMS is confronted with today, after 25 years of existence. This appears clearly in the Strategic Plan for 2006-2011, since the first of the four stated objectives of the Plan is *“to ensure that the conservation and management of migratory species is based on the best available information”*.
2. Resolution 6.5 established the priority actions to be carried out to implement the CMS Information Management Plan (IMP). These actions set the basis to harmonize reporting within CMS with other MEAs, and provide the tools necessary to manage the knowledge within the Convention and to monitor and assess the Convention’s activities and achievements.
3. Implementation to date of the actions set out in Resolution 6.5 has resulted in the development of the CMS Information Management System. The CMS IMS is a unique and powerful tool that enables the collection, management, analysis and use of the information necessary for effective implementation of CMS and its agreements at a local, regional and global levels. The IMS is not a database, rather it is a ‘hub’ for the information generated by national and international expert agencies working on migratory species. This approach gives credit to, and retains management of information with, its source; avoids duplication of efforts, and minimises the costs involved in the production, collection, management and analysis of relevant information.
4. The CMS IMS also provides the infrastructure to integrate and harmonise is designed to facilitate the exchange and harmonisation of the information management and reporting mechanisms of the CMS family, as well as those of other Convention Secretariats, Parties and expert agencies. An illustration of the basic architecture of the CMS IMS is provided in Annex 1 to this document.
5. This system, available on line through the web site of the Secretariat, brings together the information provided by the Parties to CMS through their national Reports, the knowledge generated within CMS and other biodiversity agreements, and the data from various expert organizations.

6. The CMS IMS enables a number of management tools to facilitate analysis of information, such as interactive mapping, thematic analysis of Party reports, GROMS<sup>1</sup>, deep drilling (direct access to the databases of expert agencies), interactive knowledge management (e.g. rolling papers, organised/thematic correspondence, etc.)

7. Resolution 6.5 established a number of other priority actions, which are pertinent to the implementation and assessment of the CMS Strategic Plan. Progress made to date on these actions is summarised in Annex 2 to this document. As can be seen, much progress has been made to date in the integration and harmonisation of information available to the Convention. However, some key elements of the Information Management Plan.

8. Lack of implementation of these activities means that while the infrastructure is already in place, much of the information available to the CMS family remains fragmented and dispersed. Implementation of remaining activities in the CMS Information Management Plan would

- a) provide the basis for an ongoing review of the Appendices (including information tools for knowledge management by the Scientific Council, as well as information on CMS-relevant projects) and the means to monitor the effectiveness of the Convention and its contribution to global processes, such as attainment of the WSSD target to significantly reduce biodiversity loss by 2010.
- b) enable the effective exchange and management of information systems and reporting within the CMS family and other MEAs relevant to the CMS (in particular CBD, Ramsar and CITES)
- c) provide the information base for the implementation and assessment of the CMS Strategic Plan 2006-2011

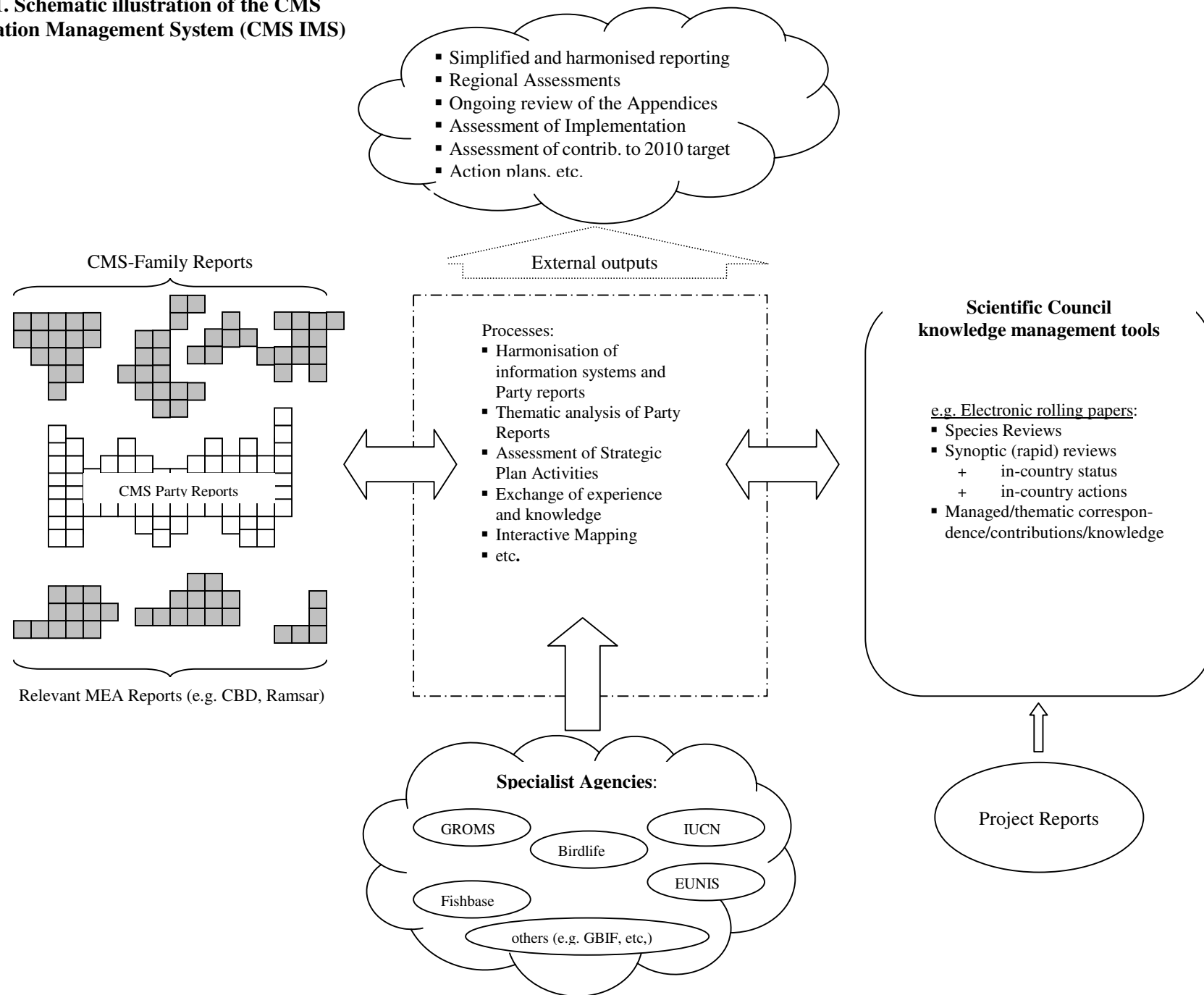
**Action requested:**

The Conference of the Parties is invited to review the implementation, to date, of the Information Management Plan, to indicate the priorities for further implementation during the forthcoming triennium (including, as appropriate, new activities not necessarily included in the original Plan), with a view to guiding this important activity over the next three years.

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<sup>1</sup> GROMS is an information system designed to satisfy the needs of the CMS and its related Agreements concerning the scientific information on migratory species and their populations. Originally based on an initiative by the CMS Secretariat, it was launched in 1998 with financial support from the German Ministry of the Environment through the Federal Agency of Nature Conservation. The rationale behind GROMS is mainly based on the fact that although many databases include migratory species, scientific information on details about their migration behaviour, routes and seasonal distribution was scattered. Therefore, summarising knowledge about migratory species within one information system was among the main objectives of the GROMS information system, which should serve as a tool for fact finding and decision making by CMS and its related Agreements.

**Annex 1. Schematic illustration of the CMS Information Management System (CMS IMS)**



## Annex 2: Implementation of Activities in CMS Resolution 6.5 (update at August 05)

Action	IMP Objective /Priority	Current status	Notes	Remaining activities (progress at Aug 05 in bold font)
1. Review Party reports together with information from other sources to develop an overview of the national and global implementation of the convention. Based on this review, develop revised guidelines and/or pro-formas.	5 Very High	Completed	<p>Synthesis of reports to CMS and associated agreements submitted by CMS Parties between 1988-2001 completed and distributed at end of 2001, and used as the basis for the development of the new National Report Format.</p> <p>Synthesis of 2002 National Reports to CMS submitted up to 31 July 2002 is available as document UNEP/CMS/Conf. 7.6.1.</p> <p>The product of both exercises is also available for consultation and feedback in electronic form through the CMS Information System:</p> <p><a href="http://www.unep-wcmc.org/cms/ims">http://www.unep-wcmc.org/cms/ims</a></p>	
2. Finalise the CMS Information Management Plan incorporating relevant information from the Strategic Plan, following the Standing Committee and further consultation with the Convention and Agreement Secretariats.	1 High	Completed	Draft document submitted at the 6 <sup>th</sup> CMS Conference of the Parties. Final version available from the CMS Secretariat.	
3. Work with the Biodiversity Conservation Information System (BCIS) and others such as GROMS to develop a project on migratory species bringing together the information resources of these networks to address information needs of the Convention and its Agreements.	1 High	Ongoing	<p>The CMS Information System already interconnects the databases of several expert organisations so that users of the system are able to gain immediate access to the knowledge managed by these organisations on any given species. Systems currently interconnected through the CMS Information System include:</p> <p>BirdLife species database; Fishbase; Species 2000; IUCN Red List; International Taxonomic Information System; and a www image library.</p>	<p>As emerging initiatives develop their information systems and Internet interfaces, further interconnections can be enabled. Developments expected to be possible in the short to medium term include interconnections with: GROMS; IUCN Species Information System; AEWAS Species Database; Wetlands International Waterfowl Census Database; and BirdLife International Important Bird Areas data.</p> <p>A project proposal to integrate data from Wetlands International, BirdLife and UNEP-WCMC is currently in development in the context of AEWAS.</p>

Action	IMP Objective /Priority	Current status	Notes	Remaining activities (progress at Aug 05 in bold font)
				Electronic link between CMS IMS and GROMS has been established.
4. Build on existing efforts to establish an up-to-date, comprehensive and authoritative database of listed species and range states, linked to other relevant species information and make it available on the web.	2 High	First stage completed	With the transition of WCMC (now UNEP-WCMC) to the UNEP family, the CMS has gained access to the Centre's databases, which are now an integral part of the CMS Information System. The System therefore contains up-to-date information on issues such as: species distribution ranges, species listing under various multilateral environmental agreements; literature references on the distribution and conservation status of species protected by the CMS; species nomenclature; synonymy; common names in over 30 languages, etc.	<b>Information on distribution range of species is now provided by Parties through their National Reports. Information received through 2005 reports to be used to update the range list in the CMS IMS.</b>
5. Develop a CMS and Agreements projects database to help in monitoring the contribution being made by the Convention to ongoing work on migratory species, and as an aid to project management.	2 High	Not yet initiated	The CMS Information System is designed to enable management of information on CMS and Agreements projects.	<b>Steps have been taken by members of the CMS family of agreements to collect and manage information on relevant projects. Such is the case, for instance, of IOSEA Marine Turtle MoU. It is, however, still necessary to design a format for, and undertake the collection of, information on project implementation across the CMS family.</b>
6. Request the submission of Party reports and other official documents, including project reports, proposed amendments to the Appendices and reports on 'concerted action species' in electronic format to facilitate making them more widely available using the Internet.	3 High	Ongoing	The CMS Secretariat continues to encourage Parties to submit their National Reports in electronic form. The new Report Format has been made available to all Parties on a voluntary trial basis. Nevertheless, submission of reports and additional information remains low.  The CMS Information System includes an Electronic Library through which the convention's 'electronic knowledge' can be accessed.	<b>New Report Format, adopted by COP7, was fine-tuned following feedback received from Parties that used the format to produced their 2002 National Reports. Final draft was approved by StCttee26. Use of standard report format derived in a record number of reports prepared in 2002 for COP7. Provision of pre-filled reports to Parties has increased timeliness and number of reports returned in 2005. Information from reports will be available for thematic analysis on CMS IMS. Further materials already available in</b>

Action	IMP Objective /Priority	Current status	Notes	Remaining activities (progress at Aug 05 in bold font)
				<b>electronic form will be added to the Electronic Library as they become available.</b>
7. Develop a method for sharing information between the Convention, Agreement secretariats, and the Parties	3  High	Ongoing	The modular design of the CMS Report Format and the CMS Information System enables the exchange of information among Agreements and Parties. The modalities for integrating information from CMS Agreements remain to be worked out.	<b>Both the CMS and its family of agreements have been developing a number of information systems and national report formats to implement their obligations. Harmonization of these information resources would optimize access to information, avoid duplication of efforts and minimise costs. Steps have been taken, promoted by the CMS Secretariat, to move towards this harmonization. This can be achieved during the COP8/COP9 inter-sessional period.</b>
8. Implement a method for delivering information on migratory species and actions over the Internet, which includes the following: Party reports, a synthesis of past Party reports and project reports linked as appropriate to species and party lists	4  High	Ongoing	The CMS Information System provides the infrastructure to bring together the information provided by the Parties to CMS through their National Reports, the knowledge generated within CMS and other biodiversity-related agreements, and the data from various expert organisations.	<b>Information from 2005 reports is being added to the CMS IMS's database of reports and will be accessible through CMS IMS which provides electronic tools the for thematic analysis.</b>
9. Develop an information system on a group of high profile species in collaboration with partner organisations, to demonstrate the potential for co-ordinated web-based information services to support the Convention and Agreements.	4  High	Initiated	Consideration is being given to using a select number of Appendix I 'concerted action species' as the group of species on which to base this Action.	
10. Develop a mechanism for the sharing of experience on a priority area and establish list servers or web forums for discussion and exchange of information on key areas of interest to implementation of the Convention and/or Agreements.	6  High	Not yet initiated	Consideration is being given to using 'concerted action species' as the group of species on which to base this Action. Other possibilities under considerations include following a thematic, rather than a taxonomic approach (e.g. satellite telemetry, by-catch, etc.)	<b>Scientific Council has considered and provided feedback on the 'Rolling Paper' concept as a mechanism to share and mange information. Baseline information on Concerted Action Species emerging from the CMS IMS was used as pilot test. Activation of rolling papers for concerted action and other App I species still pending.</b>

Action	IMP Objective /Priority	Current status	Notes	Remaining activities (progress at Aug 05 in bold font)
11. In the course of normal Secretariat business, continue the dialogue with information managers of other global biodiversity-related treaties on streamlining information management and reporting, convening as necessary a meeting of information managers from the organisations concerned.	1 Medium	Ongoing	The CMS Secretariat continues to work with UNEP and other Multilateral Agreements on the activities for harmonisation under UNEP. (Information document UNEP/CMS/Inf. 20 refers. See also: <a href="http://www.unep-wcmc.org/conventions/harmonization/index.htm">http://www.unep-wcmc.org/conventions/harmonization/index.htm</a> ). The new CMS Report Format and the CMS Information System are cutting-edge initiatives that provide important building blocks to this process.	<b>CMS continues to participate in developments of this UNEP-led initiative, with its Information System at the core of the CMS contribution. Basic Infrastructural developments for the harmonization of information resources and reporting with other MEAs are in place.</b>
12. Develop a database of Parties, including Focal points, for the Convention and all agreements, incorporating all of the information necessary on means and dates of accession, reservations, adoption of amendments, etc.	2 Medium	Completed for collaborating Parties  (Constant updating required)	The CMS Information System includes information provided by Parties through the new Report Format on issues listed in this point. The system also includes information on implementing legislation, relevant governmental and non-governmental organisations, national/regional plans and policies, as well as issues such as implementation of resolutions and recommendations at a Party level, mobilisation of financial and technical resources, awareness raising, etc.	<b>The CMS Information System nevertheless still lacks information from those Parties that have not submitted their national reports. Parties should therefore be further encouraged to submit their reports – even after the official deadline in this instance – and to provide their reports in a timely manner.</b>
13. Develop a metadatabase of information sources on migratory species, linked to the database on listed species and on Parties and other Range Species.	2 Medium	Not yet initiated	Technology in the CMS Information System enables direct access to the information maintained by expert organisations when this is delivered through the Internet. Consideration is being given to the convenience of developing a metadatabase for information sources not available electronically.	
14. Use the CBD clearing house mechanism as an existing tool to promote CMS and facilitate the sharing of information on migratory species	3 Medium	Initiated	With the CMS Information System in place, it is possible to take steps to establish mechanisms to share information with the CBD CHM over the Internet. Direct access to National CBD CHMs is now possible through the Country Profile function available in the CMS IMS.	
15. Establish a regular process for, and undertake a review of appendices based on available information on migratory species and the threats to them.	5 Medium	On schedule for COP8	Consideration is being given to the protocol for this review. Meanwhile, a proposal is also being submitted to the consideration of the Scientific Council of a ‘rolling paper’ format for the review of Appendix I ‘concerted action species’.	

Action	IMP Objective /Priority	Current status	Notes	Remaining activities (progress at Aug 05 in bold font)
16. Work with Agreement secretariats, and the secretariats of other biodiversity-related treaties, to enhance information flow between the organisations.	6 Medium	On schedule	See note on Action 7.	
17. Encourage Parties to post details of meetings on relevant lists (e.g. BioNet).	6 Medium	Not yet initiated		
18. Consider the necessity for a bibliographic database on migratory species, working in collaboration with Parties, partners, and possibly with commercial abstracting services and bibliographies	2 Low	Ongoing	The CMS Information Management System already provides access to literature references available at UNEP-WCMC databases and in the databases of expert organisations already interconnected through the System.	Interconnections with further bibliographic resources can now be established as these are identified. Interconnectivity with GROMS now established (see point 3). <b>Information on pertinent bibliographic references is being received from Parties through their national reports, and is being incorporated in the CMS IMS</b>
19. Make appropriate links to other Internet information sources, and where possible make integrated meaningful links rather than just provide a list of 'interesting' links	4 Low	Ongoing	The CMS Information System already provides immediate access ('deep-drilling') to the information on any given species in the databases managed by a number of relevant partners. The System is designed to enable the establishment of further 'deep-drilling' links, as expert organisations make their information available over the Internet.	<b>CMS IMS provides the infrastructure to make pertinent direct links to an unlimited number of sources. These continue to be made on an ongoing basis, as recommended by Parties in their reports or as expert collaborating agencies make them available.</b>