

48th Meeting of the Standing Committee

Bonn, Germany, 23 – 24 October 2018

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SYNERGIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

(as at 13 September 2018/Prepared by the Secretariat)

Summary:

This document highlights the work done in cooperation with key stakeholders including biodiversity-related Conventions and international organizations, as instructed by Resolution 11.10 (Rev. COP12) on *Synergies and Partnerships*.

It presents an overview of the state of activities, as at September 2018, undertaken since the Twelfth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (October 2017, Manila) which also contribute to meeting various targets of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023.

Further details of the Secretariat's interagency work are reported in UNEP/CMS/StC48/Doc.14 Implementation of the Secretariat Programme of Work for the Triennium 2018-2020.

Background

1. The Conference of the Parties to CMS at its 12th meeting (COP12, Manila, October 2017) adopted Resolution 11.10 (Rev.COP12) on *Synergies and Partnerships*. The document provides an overview of the progress made on its implementation.

Promoting CMS Issues in the UN System

Post-2015 Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

2. The Secretariat attended the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (9-18 July 2018) and promoted awareness on the interlinkages between sustainable development and the conservation of wildlife and the Manila Declaration adopted by COP12.

Processes and Initiatives under UN Environment

3. The Secretariat, on behalf of the CMS Family, has been taking part and coordinating inputs to the definition and implementation of a UNEP project that aims to improving synergies among biodiversity-related conventions. A component of this project jointly focuses on developing activities to streamline and amplify the biodiversity messaging particularly in the run-up to 2020. The Secretariat attended the first meeting of the Communications Officers of the Secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions and UN Environment and is planning to take part in its second session in the margins of the Ramsar COP13 (21-29 October 2018, Dubai).
4. The Secretariat attended the Third Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA3, 4-6 December 2017, Nairobi) to promote the contributions of the CMS COP12 agenda to the main theme of the UNEA Meeting, "*Pollution Free Planet*" as well as the outcome of the Leadership Dialogue Breakfast, which was organized in cooperation with UN Environment immediately before COP12 in Manila. The event brought together leaders from governments, the private sector and non-governmental entities focused on the detrimental impact of pollution on wildlife and ecosystems specifically marine debris, pollution by pesticides and lead.

Promoting Synergies with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)

Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG)

5. Members of the BLG jointly convened an event themed "The Living Planet – the foundation of sustainable development" which was held in the margins of the 2018 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. The event addressed Party representatives and (a) emphasized the critical importance of biodiversity and healthy ecosystems to the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; (b) demonstrated how the implementation of these biodiversity-related conventions contributes to the implementation and attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and (c) highlighted the complementarity and synergies between the conventions in these regards.
6. The Thirteenth Meeting of the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-Related Conventions (BLG) will take place in September 2018 in Rome.

Biodiversity-related MEAs

7. Meanwhile, liaison has continued individually with BLG members and other MEAs through the implementation of joint work plans, and enhancing synergies when possible.
8. The Secretariat took part in the Second Meeting of the CBD Subsidiary Body on Implementation (9-13 July 2018 in Montreal, Canada) to promote current and future collaboration particularly in preparation of the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework.
9. In the context of the CMS/CITES Joint Work Programme for 2015-2020, both Secretariats are planning the First Range State Meeting of the joint CMS-CITES African Carnivores Initiative (ACI) to be held from 5 to 8 November 2018 in Bonn, Germany. The meeting will bring together for the first time all Range States concerned with the ACI, with the goal of setting priorities and mapping a way forward for implementing the Decisions and measures that both Conventions have adopted for the four African carnivore species being African Lion (*Panthera leo*), Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*), Leopard (*Panthera pardus*), and African Wild Dog (*Lycaon pictus*).
10. It is proposed to revise the CMS-CBD Joint Work Plan 2016-2018 after the conclusion of the CBD COP14 (10 - 22 November 2018) in order to better guide future joint work for the preparations towards CMS COP13 and CBD COP15 in 2020.
11. Similarly, the CMS-Ramsar Joint Work Plan 2015-2017, which was adopted by the 45th meeting of the CMS Standing Committee in 2016, and by the 53rd meeting of the Ramsar Standing Committee in 2017, is proposed to be extended into the period 2018-2020, to allow more time for its implementation. In 2020, a full review of implementation should be undertaken as a basis for the development of a new Joint Work Plan in line with the new post-2020 Biodiversity Targets.

Strengthen Existing Collaboration with other Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs) and Civil Society

12. The Secretariat has been renewing its commitments with IGOs and civil society through regular contacts, holding meetings or phone calls, to review progress on current collaborations and exchange information on emerging issues.
13. CMS continued to benefit from the support of numerous non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the implementation of species Memoranda of Understanding and initiatives as well as in the operation of various processes and scientific working groups.
14. The Secretariat entered into a formal partnership with Born Free Foundation. A related agreement was signed during the Third Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council (29 May - 1 June 2018).
15. With a view to implementing Resolution 11.10 (Rev.COP12) provisions, the Secretariat issued a Notification (2018/008 on 3 August 2018) to invite Parties, other governments, civil society organizations (CSOs) and NGOs to consider and make recommendations on the relationship between the CMS Family and Civil Society, specifically on:

- Mechanisms that will facilitate CSO- and NGO-facilitated work to be formally and consistently reported across the CMS Family and to be considered by the Parties and governing bodies of agreements within the CMS Family;
 - Models for further CSO and NGO involvement in CMS processes;
 - Modalities for further strategic engagement with CSOs and NGOs to provide implementation and capacity-building expertise.
16. By 13 September 2018, the Secretariat received inputs from the Governments of Australia and Poland and from Wild Migration also on behalf BirdLife International, OceanCare and Wildlife Conservation Society. All submissions have been compiled in UNEP/CMS/StC48/Inf.4, as they were received, with a courtesy translation in the official languages.

Cooperation on WMBD

17. Following the conclusion of the agreement between CMS and AEWA and Environment for the Americas in the margins of COP12, World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) is now celebrated as a single global campaign twice a year, on the second Saturdays in May and in October. WMBD aims to reach out to a broader audience and amplify its message for bird conservation. The campaign unifies the planet's major migratory bird corridors, or flyways: the African-Eurasian flyway, the East Asian-Australasian flyway and the Americas flyways. CMS and AEWA and Environment for the Americas have been working closely on creating this common vision. To this end, Susan Bonfield, the Executive Director of Environment for the Americas, attended the First Meeting of the CMS Americas Flyways Task Force where she presented the WMBD and current efforts under its Americas flyways component.

Action requested:

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) Take note of the document and to give comments and guidance, as necessary, to the Secretariat;
- b) Endorse the extension of the Joint Work Plans that CMS has with both Ramsar and CBD.