



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

Distribution: General

UNEP/CMS/Conf.10.44
21 September 2011

Original: English

TENTH MEETING OF THE
CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
Bergen, 20-25 November 2011
Agenda Item 19

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: REVIEW OF EXISTING CMS INSTRUMENTS AND PROJECTS ON TERRESTRIAL MAMMALS (INCLUDING BATS)

(Introductory note prepared by the Secretariat and Summary by UNEP-WCMC for CMS)

1. Reproduced below is the Executive Summary of the Review of CMS Existing Instruments and Projects on Terrestrial Mammals (Including Bats) excerpted from the Report (UNEP/CMS/Inf.10.15) prepared by UNEP-WCMC for CMS.
2. The Review was commissioned from UNEP-WCMC, after a tender process, in response to Resolution 9.2, which decided to conduct reviews of the existing CMS Agreements and related projects on terrestrial mammals, marine species and birds, in the context of the inter-sessional process regarding the Future Shape of CMS, initiated by Resolution 9.13.
3. The Review is an evaluation of the eight existing CMS instruments on terrestrial mammals (including bats) and considers the extent to which the instruments address the threats facing these taxa. Options are proposed for the effective implementation and further development of CMS instruments, in order to maximize the geographic and taxonomic coverage of CMS, while enhancing the Convention's credibility and influence.

Action requested:

The Conference of the Parties is requested to:

- a. Note the outcomes of the review;
- b. Adopt the recommendations on terrestrial mammals proposed in the draft Resolution on Priorities for Agreements, contained in UNEP/CMS/Res.10.16; and
- c. Make suggestions for other actions which could be added to the draft Resolution or to relevant programmes of work.

REVIEW OF CMS EXISTING INSTRUMENTS AND PROJECTS ON TERRESTRIAL MAMMALS (INCLUDING BATS)

Executive Summary

1. This report evaluates existing CMS provisions for the conservation of terrestrial mammals (including bats) listed in the CMS Appendices and identifies options for future action. It identifies the main threats and conservation issues (Section 2); evaluates the eight CMS existing instruments and considers the extent to which they address the threats and issues facing those taxa (Section 3); provides an overview of relevant non-CMS instruments/frameworks and how they overlap or complement the CMS existing instruments (Section 3); and proposes options for the effective implementation and further development of CMS instruments, in order to maximise the geographic and taxonomic coverage of CMS and its contribution to the conservation of terrestrial mammals (Section 4).

Overview of the main threats and conservation issues affecting terrestrial mammals listed in the CMS Appendices

2. A total of 43 taxa of terrestrial mammals (including bats) are listed in the CMS Appendices: two at the family level, 39 at the species level (25 of which are globally threatened) and two at the subspecies level. These taxa are subject to many threats, the most common being habitat loss and degradation, hunting/capture, disease and potentially the impacts of climate change. Habitat loss in recent decades has been greatest in tropical and subtropical dry forests and tropical, subtropical and temperate grasslands, with particularly rapid changes in the Amazon basin and Southeast Asia (deforestation and expansion of croplands) and Asia (land degradation in dry lands). The ecological impacts of climate change are increasing in all terrestrial ecosystems, with the most severe impacts predicted to occur in Polar and mountain regions, as well as deserts and tropical grasslands and savannas.

Coverage and evaluation of existing CMS and non-CMS multilateral instruments/frameworks

3. The eight CMS instruments on terrestrial mammals (the EUROBATS AGREEMENT, Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes Concerted Action, Bukhara Deer MoU, West African Elephant MoU, Saiga Antelope MoU, Gorillas AGREEMENT, South Andean Huemul MoU, and Central Eurasian Aridland Concerted and Cooperative Action) differ in their level of progress towards addressing threats to the species and habitats which they cover. All but the two most recent instruments have an Action Plan addressing the main threats and issues, four have a Medium-Term International Work Programme or equivalent and six have a binding or non-binding instrument (of which four have been signed by all range States).
4. There are a number of non-CMS instruments and frameworks whose work overlaps or compliments that of CMS with regards to terrestrial mammals. For example, the Convention on Biological Diversity, with its National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPS), has a number of relevant work programmes and initiatives. CITES regulates international trade in many CMS species, with specific programmes on great apes and elephants and joint work with CMS on the Saiga antelope and elephants in West Africa. European bats are also protected by the Bern Convention and the EU Habitats

Directive, which prohibit the capture/killing/possession/trade of bats, as well as protecting important habitats through a network of protected sites. GRASP's Global Strategy for the Survival of Great Apes encourages range States to implement national Action Plans and promote and enforce the legal framework for conserving great apes. More generally, the UNFCCC and UNCCD address the threats of climate change and desertification, respectively, and important habitats are protected under the Ramsar Convention, the World Heritage Convention and COMIFAC. In addition, a multitude of international organisations, NGOs and projects target CMS terrestrial mammals (including bats), and are working with national governments, local communities or implementing conservation activities on the ground.

5. CMS instruments play an important role in the conservation of migratory mammals. Major contributions include facilitating international cooperation, raising international awareness, harmonisation of research and monitoring, exchange of information and ideas and the production of publications and best-practice guidelines. The main factors contributing to the success of CMS instruments include i) strong support and political will of range States, ii) strong collaborations between governments, international organisations, NGOs and experts, iii) organisation of regular meetings and iv) active discussion on conservation issues and sharing of data and expertise. The main obstacles to success include i) lack of funding and resources, particularly for on the ground conservation projects, community projects or enforcement, ii) limited capacity of range States to achieve all actions specified in the Action Plan, iii) issues with non-compliance, lack of accountability or lack of political will and iv) widespread corruption that hinders conservation efforts in certain regions, making it difficult to tackle threats such as illegal hunting and trade.

Options for more effective implementation of CMS existing instruments and priorities for development

6. Options are proposed for strengthening CMS existing instruments, to provide maximum benefit to a large number of threatened migratory mammals and highlight the potential of Multispecies Initiatives. The Central Eurasian Aridland Concerted Action and associated Cooperative Action could be strengthened through formation of an appropriate funding mechanism, development of an MoU or other binding or non-binding instrument, production of an Action Plan and arrangement of a meeting between stakeholders. The Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes Concerted Action could be strengthened through development of an MoU or other binding or non-binding instrument, as well as updating the Action Plan to focus on the highest priorities.
7. Other activities that would strengthen the conservation contributions and international influence of CMS include *inter alia*: i) strengthening existing Action Plans and providing guidance for their future design, including the development of SMART indicators, ii) developing programmes/initiatives promoting collaboration on cross-cutting issues between CMS instruments and with other MEAs and organisations, iii) further development of the use of online reporting and harmonised reporting, and iv) development of indicators for measuring the overall performance and impact of CMS instruments and their contributions to NBSAPs.
8. Eighteen terrestrial mammal taxa included in the Appendices are not covered by a CMS instrument and five species only have part of their geographic range covered by a CMS

instrument. Options for the conservation of these species under CMS instruments include the geographic or taxonomic expansion of existing instruments, creation of new Multispecies Initiatives, or creation of new single-species initiatives. Priorities to cover the remaining globally threatened taxa include i) development of a Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna Concerted Action (including geographical extension to the Horn of Africa), ii) geographical extension of the Central Eurasian Aridland Concerted Action (to include the Arabian Peninsula), and iii) development of a Subsaharan African Megafauna Initiative. Through establishment/revision of these three Multispecies Initiatives, all but two globally threatened mammals currently listed in the CMS Appendices (Endangered *Lontra provocax* and Critically Endangered *Bos sauveli*) would be covered by an instrument. These three Multispecies Initiatives also cover priority geographic regions.

9. Creating an appropriate instrument to cover elephant populations in Central Africa is also a priority (although the precise choice of instrument should await the outcome of the report commissioned specifically to address this issue). Other new Multispecies Initiatives that could be created if they have the interest and support of range States are new African, Southeast Asian and Pan-American Bat Initiatives, and new South American and South and Southeast Asian Megafauna.