



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme



41st Meeting of the Standing Committee

Bonn, Germany, 27-28 November 2013

UNEP/CMS/StC41/13

REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN WORKING GROUP

(Prepared by the Chair of the Working Group)

Background

1. The Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS (Bergen, Norway; 20-25 November 2011) endorsed Resolution 10.5, which established a Working Group to draft a new CMS Strategic Plan for the period 2015-2023. The Working Group was to operate inter-sessionally, and report on progress to Meetings of the CMS Standing Committee. A final draft Strategic Plan is to be submitted for consideration by the Conference of the Parties to CMS at their 11th Meeting (COP11), to be held in 2014.

2. In accordance with the Terms of Reference for the Working Group (Annex 1 to Resolution 10.5), each CMS region elected a maximum of two members. The Chairs of the Standing Committee and the Scientific Council are *ex-officio* members. Resolution 10.5 also provides for the involvement of CMS partner organizations and Secretariats of relevant multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs).

3. The Working Group membership and Chair/Vice-Chair are unchanged from the last report to the Standing Committee, and are as follows:

CMS Region	Working Group member
Africa	Ms Nopasika Malta Qwathekana, South Africa Dr Samuel Kasiki, Kenya
Asia	Mr Mohammad Sulayem, Saudi Arabia Mr Sadegh Sadeghi Zadegan, Islamic Republic of Iran
Europe	Ms Ines Verleye (Chair), Belgium Mr Martiros Nalbandyan, Armenia
South and Central America and the Caribbean	Mr Roman Baigún, Argentina Mr Eduardo Espinoza, Ecuador
Oceania	Dr Wendy Jackson (Vice-Chair), New Zealand [Alternate] Ms Fiona Bartlett, Australia
North America	Vacant (no Parties in the region)
Standing Committee Chair	Mr Alfred Oteng Yeboah
Scientific Council Chair	Dr Fernando Spina

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4. The First Meeting of the Working Group was held on 5-6 November 2012. At the Meeting, it was decided that the 2015-2023 Strategic Plan for Migratory Species would be based on the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020. Also, it would cover all migratory species as defined by the CMS and thereby serve as a guiding framework for all work supporting the conservation of migratory species. Further, the Working Group agreed that alongside the development of the Strategic Plan, a technical ‘Companion Volume’ should be prepared to support the Plan’s implementation which would, *inter alia*, identify implementation tools in more detail.

Report on Progress

Gathering of views and information

5. Based on stakeholders’ initial views and discussion at the Working Group’s First Meeting, consultant Mr. Dave Pritchard finalized two reports on lessons learned from implementation of the current Strategic Plan 2006-2014¹, as well as ideas on the content of the future one. The contract of the consultant to support the Working Group was extended for another year, in particular to provide information and analyses for use in preparing drafts of the Strategic Plan.

First draft Plan for consultation

6. The first draft of the Strategic Plan 2015-2023 was developed by the members of the Working Group and released in April 2013, with comments to be submitted by 30 September 2013. The first draft was translated into the three languages of the Convention, and was widely distributed to Parties and partners. It was also promoted via notifications, media releases and social networks.

7. The current draft of the Plan presents the broadest elements of content, i.e. the proposed Goals and Targets, which are based on the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. At the time of writing this report, no comments had been received, and a first update regarding this initial round of consultations will be provided at the Standing Committee’s 41st Meeting.

Second draft Plan for consultation

8. Based on feedback received through the first round of consultations, a second draft will be prepared and submitted to the Working Group for its input and guidance.

9. The Working Group will hold its Second Meeting immediately prior to the 41st Meeting of the Standing Committee in Bonn, Germany, to discuss the second draft as well as further steps to be taken. The Working Group Chair will provide an oral update on the results of this Meeting to the Standing Committee.

¹ Note from the Secretariat: Reports on implementation of the current Strategic Plan 2006-2014 are integrated into the other documents prepared for the 41st Meeting of the Standing Committee.

CMS Future Shape process

10. Resolution 10.9 requests the Strategic Plan Working Group to “make use of” the medium- and long-term activities listed in the Resolution (i.e. those activities that fall within the timeframe of the new Strategic Plan). Resolution 10.5 also gives the Working Group a task to “take into account” the conclusions of COP10 on Future Shape.

11. Accordingly, the Working Group has drawn on the material emerging from the Future Shape process and has identified elements for the new Strategic Plan and Companion Volume. An oral update will be provided to the Standing Committee on this aspect of the process, in light of consultation comments received.

Environment Management Group

12. In November 2012, the UN Environment Management Group, through its technical and senior officials’ segments, was informed about the CMS Strategic Plan process. The Group was invited to consider issues related to migratory species when identifying opportunities for cooperation and mainstreaming biodiversity into the relevant policy sectors, in support of an effective and efficient implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity across the UN system. The senior officials decided to continue the work of the Issue Management Group on Biodiversity for another year (2013), agreeing to “*provide technical support to facilitate further synergies and cooperation, sharing tasks and coordination and planning of future actions by the UN system to support implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, as well as the strategic planning processes of the biodiversity related MEAs, such as for migratory species...*”.

Other consultation and engagement

13. At the time of writing, two calls had been made for voluntary contributions of financial assistance for regional consultation workshops but only one response had been received – a generous contribution from South Africa of financial resources and in-kind support in the form of a consultation meeting venue in Africa complete with organizational and interpretation facilities.

14. The lack of funds at the time of writing therefore precludes the holding of specific regional consultation meetings on the Strategic Plan. Meanwhile, to enhance the engagement of Parties and stakeholders, every attempt is being made to promote the consultation process and the draft Plan in other fora, such as through regional MEA meetings. For example, written and oral statements about the Plan process are being submitted to meetings where stakeholders are present.

15. Dedicated pages on the CMS website provide information about the work of the Group. Relevant background documents are available on the webpages, including a summary report of the First Meeting of the Group, and a Concept Note and a PowerPoint presentation, which Parties can use to understand (or explain) the process for developing the new Plan.

What Next?

16. Pending further discussions during the Working Group Meeting, the following process can be foreseen.

17. The second draft Plan will be adjusted in light of comments received at the Second Working Group Meeting and 41st Standing Committee Meeting, for translation and release for another round of widespread stakeholder consultation.

18. Following the second round of consultation, a final draft Plan will be prepared by the Working Group for presentation to the 42nd Meeting of the Standing Committee, and then to COP11 for consideration and adoption with any amendments.

19. The Working Group will continue to strongly encourage all CMS Parties and stakeholders to engage in this important exercise so as to ensure the development of a strong and realistic Plan in support of the conservation of migratory species.

Action requested:

The Standing Committee is requested to:

- a) Note the above report.
- b) Provide any comments to the Secretariat and the Chair of the Working Group in the light of her oral update and presentation of the second draft Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023 to the Committee, and on further steps to be taken in the development of the Plan.
- c) Encourage Parties and other relevant stakeholders to actively engage in the consultations on the Strategic Plan through the link http://www.cms.int/bodies/StC/strategic_plan_2015_2023_wg.