

Regional Preparatory Meeting for the 12th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) for Latin America and the Caribbean

18th – 20th July 2017

Hotel Calacoto, La Paz, Bolivia



WORKSHOP REPORT

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1. Workshop introduction

This preparatory meeting was convened by the UNEP/CMS Secretariat to meet the objectives of preparing the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region for effective participation in the forthcoming 12th Conference of Parties (COP12) and enhancing regional capacity for CMS implementation activities in the continent.

The meeting built on previous training and pre-COP workshops, and aimed to ensure effective preparation for the upcoming COP12 of Latin American National Focal Points (NFPs) and to give them the possibility of developing common positions on priority issues for the region. This was achieved through presentation and discussion of key issues, with time available for the LAC group to make decisions during a closed session.

The European Commission were recognized as Champion Plus for their generous support and commitment towards Building Capacity for Migratory Species Conservation for the period 2015-2018. This activity has been funded with the contribution granted by the European Commission under the Migratory Species Champion Programme and through the Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC Programme) Cooperation Agreements with UNEP.

2. Workshop venue and programme

The workshop was held at Hotel Calacoto, La Paz, Bolivia and started at 8:30h on Tuesday 18 July, and ended at 18:00 on Thursday 20th July, following the programme agenda in Annex 1

3. Workshop participants

Participants comprised CMS NFPs and other representatives from seven CMS Parties in the LAC region, a representative from a non-Party Range State, observers and partners active in the region. A full participant list is given in Annex 2.

4. Workshop opening and resume

Opening

The Minister of Environment, His Excellency Sr. Carlos Ortuño Yañez, and his Vice Minister Sra. Cynthia Silva Maturana (below) opened the workshop and welcomed participants to La Paz. Both stressed the importance of the upcoming conference and the workshop in the LAC region, which supports one of the richest diversity of migratory species. Francisco Rilla, the workshop facilitator, *Figure 1 The Environment Minister & Vice Minister officially opening the Workshop*



presented the aims of the workshop and led the participant introduction session outside, when everyone told the group their name, country, workshop expectation, and their favourite migratory species. They positioned themselves spatially according to their countries in order to create a regional awareness. This session set the scene for an interactive and informal workshop.



Figure 2 Gina Cuza Jones (Costa Rica) introducing herself to the group

Resumé

The first technical session of the workshop on 18th July was an interactive quiz, after which the participants looked closely at the COP12 agenda, highlighting priority issues for Latin America and the Caribbean. A session was held on practical COP issues, followed by group work on species amendment proposals. The evening concluded with a welcome cocktail by the host government with a strong focus on indigenous values and heritage. The 19th July started with an excursion of the city of La Paz, kindly organized by the Bolivian Ministry of Environment and Water. In the afternoon, there were presentations on generic and institutional issues followed by a closed session for the delegates of CMS Parties and a COP plenary simulation on inclusion of a shark species into Appendix II. On 20th August, there was a series of key negotiation points examined through group work, and lectures. The focus of the day was then on implementation issues, culminating in a presentation from Bolivia on current national implementation of CMS. There was then further group work on different CMS plans, followed by presentations on and bird poisoning and illegal killing, the Americas Flyways, concerted actions and national reporting. The workshop ended with discussions on preparations for COP12 and beyond including mock and real interviews by local press. All key issues identified by the participants were covered during the workshop. On the last evening, the Pew Charitable Trust invited the participants to a vegan dinner to celebrate the good capacity development for the region in preparation for COP12. All presentations and further information can be found on the [workshop webpage](#).

5. Workshop account

5.1. Team Quiz: Their Future is our Future, Migratory Species & CMS

After introducing the workshop agenda, Francisco Rilla presented an interactive quiz. The participants grouped into three teams to answer questions about CMS, migratory species and the role of NFPs, with a special focus on the COP12 theme 'Their future is our future'. The quiz was a very engaging activity, generating debate within groups and between groups during the answers session. A prize was presented to the winning team.

5.2. Introduction to CMS COP12

The purpose, outline and contents of COP12 were introduced by Francisco Rilla. This included logistical preparation, the entire COP agenda as well as regional prioritization of important issues prior and during the Conference. It set the incentive to coordinate amongst the Latin-American countries to form a strong alliance for the upcoming Conference of the Parties. Key topics for the region can be found in Annex three.

A further briefing point was the review of resolutions, which was primarily a housekeeping exercise to tidy up all past resolutions. A resolution provides long-standing guidance, whilst a decision refers to time-bound instructions or recommendations. Resolution 11.6 further recommended that from now on Parties and the Secretariat modify existing Resolutions with new provisions rather than creating a new Resolution on the same subject, as had been done in the past.

5.3. Species Proposals and regional initiatives

The facilitator and some of the proponents introduced the proposals for amendment of appendices I and II and the process that is involved. Several proposals coming up at COP12 are very relevant for the LAC region, namely the bat proposals by Peru and three shark proposals (Whale Shark, Dusky Shark and Blue Shark). A group session was set up with the forming groups focusing on the amendment proposals most relevant for their region. The groups addressed proposals for those species and developed recommendations, which they then presented in plenary, giving an opportunity to discuss the proposals together in some detail, for which decisions would be made at COP12: In addition, the Americas Flyways proposal was added, as it played a particular importance to this region connection North America with the South. Jessica Galvez, NFP of Peru, took the lead on the bats, while Carlos Silva (Pew) and Julia Cordero from Ecuador, defended the three shark species. The Americas flyway was introduced by Francisco Rilla highlighting the benefits of transcontinental collaboration for bird conservation. This interactive session wrapped up the official part of day One of the workshop.

5.4. Welcome Reception by the Host Country



Figure 3 Cultural heritage is closely linked to nature

In the evening, the government of Bolivia invited its guests to a welcome cocktail at the hotel, which included a traditional performance of one of the many folkloric groups of the Plurinational State of Bolivia (s. left). It gave the participants an insight into the cultural diversity of this

country and the complexity it involves.

5.5. Excursion

Day two began with the kind invitation of the Bolivian government to explore some of the local culture. Due to time restraints, this tour was restricted to the city of La Paz. The group was led on foot to the cable car that serves the city as a public and ecological mode-of-transport. It took the participants from the South of La Paz all the way to the highest point reaching more than 3,650m above sea. The high altitude creates an unusually cool microclimate for a tropical country, which is reflected in



the specialised flora and fauna of the Andes. Participants returned to the workshop refreshed and full of impressions. This was an excellent opportunity to network and bond, especially for the many new country representatives.

5.6. Review process for the Convention, Budget and Plan of Work (POW)

Francisco Rilla presented the review process of CMS, for which a working group has been formed, charged with discussing a comparative analysis of best practices of existing review mechanisms of MEAs and the feasibility for an existing body within CMS to exercise the functions of a review process (e.g. Standing Committee) and preparing options for a CMS review process, in which Argentina was particularly interested.

He also presented the budget and POW, highlighting the three options that would be discussed at COP12, as detailed below:

	Option 1: Zero nominal growth	Option 2: Zero real growth (= status quo)	Option 3: Enhanced growth
Based on	Standard salary cost plus 2% inflation across all items		
Fund allocation	No funds for servicing of Governing bodies and translation of documents	Servicing of Governing bodies and translations included	Option 2 plus funds for national report analyses, a 50% IT officer & 18% of P3 upgrade for Common Information Management Unit
Total budget	€7,442,630 (+2% of current)	€7,971,806 (+7% of current)	€8,268,842 (+11% of current)
Implications	Stop of translations, interpretation services, COP report-writing & Core Functions	Translations, interpretation services & COP report-writing & Core Functions covered	

Parties' assessed contributions for each budget scenario increase from Option 1 to 3. During the COP, the POW 2018-2020 will be considered in conjunction with the proposed Budget. The POW is mostly funded through fund-raising. CMS generally raises about one third of its own budget for the POW. During the meeting, Parties were able to see how their contributions would vary between the three scenarios and the benefits and costs each option would offer. The majority of the group only saw a win-win situation for options two and three and were keen to push for option three. Two countries, however, had strict instructions to opt for the lowest option due to unfavourable annual cost redistributions and the implication this would have on their available annual budget.

5.7. Strategic Plan for Migratory Species (SPMS)

The purpose of the SPMS is to provide vision, leadership, and a driving force toward the full and effective implementation of commitments related to migratory species. The companion volume for SPMS, planned as a dynamic (online) resource, will be presented at COP12, and NFPs are encouraged to trial and comment on it. The main change in the new template is a detailed list of indicators in Annex B. The indicators are the main tool for monitoring, along with the national reports.

5.8. Closed Session

Governmental representatives held a closed session for 1.5 hours to discuss pertinent issues relating to COP12. This included election of representatives to the governing bodies of CMS, regional positions on species proposals, the budget, and the distribution of responsibilities for effective COP participation.

5.9. Meeting simulation

The next exercise after the closed session was to simulate a scenario at the Conference. As most NFPs present were newly appointed, they received a briefing on how to be a good

negotiator, highlighting that a true victory in negotiation is one where all parties regard the outcome as fair and equitable, with all interests having been addressed in some way. The topic to be discussed was the inclusion of the Dusky Shark (*Carcharhinus obscurus*) into Appendix II of the convention. Carlos Polo Silva acted as the proponent for this species and the rest of the group chose to represent a fictive country either in favour or against. The podium was presided by Gina Cuza, Julia Cordero and Francisco Achaval (below) enacting the chair of the Committee of the Whole, the Vice-Chair and the CMS Secretariat. The discussion was very vivid and insightful and created food for thought in preparation for COP12.



Figure 4 Simulation podium members



Figure 5 Delegates engaging in negotiations on the Sharks proposal

5.10. Key negotiation points of regional relevance for Latin America for COP12

The Party representative revised some of the COP agenda items in more depth in working groups and shared this with the rest. This comprised selecting all topics of relevance for the region (s. Annex 3) and picking out the remaining ones they wanted to work through together. Furthermore, they agreed to hold a teleconference a month later to discuss their summaries, after consultations with the respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs, and potentially form alliances to strengthen negotiation at COP12.

5.11. National implementation of CMS in Bolivia

Selected country representatives presented to the participants how Bolivia was implementing CMS. The development of instruments tailored to conservation needs in the migratory range is a unique feature of CMS. Since 7 May 2002, CMS had been a part of the Bolivian legal system and had been ratified by Act No. 2352, making its implementation mandatory in the country. This was demonstrated in detail to the delegates. Moreover, it was highlighted how species and humans interrelated. Historically, biological migrations have played an important role in establishing numerous cultures. For example, in Bolivia, the close and ancestral relationship of the Wenhayek people with the *sábalo* fish and their dependence on the annual migrations of this emblematic species from the Plata basin is well known. Similarly, the cultures of the native indigenous peoples of Uruguayan Chipayas, Poopó Lake Urus (or muratos), and Uru-Iruhitus have established a complex and ancient relationship with the flamingos or *pariwanas* (as they are called in the local language) that is reflected in the most diverse cultural practices that enrich our cultural heritage. In that context, the High Andean Flamingo MOU was reviewed and an update of their status, as well as increasing threats were highlighted. At this occasion, the Bolivian hosts raised awareness of the fact that many fresh water fish in Latin America were indeed migratory and that for the next COP it would be worth proposing listing some of them.

5.12. Taking action for migratory species

This exercise served as an extension of the closed session and comprised of taking stock of all the initiatives and activities the Latin American region had already foreseen (such as various side-events and exhibits, species proposals, COP documents and resolutions), as well as a roadmap of how this region should organize itself for COP12. One particular topic arose during the discussions – Amazonian species that were shared among several countries. This should be pushed in order to plant the seed for future debates. In addition, the priority list was revisited and for each key agenda item a country would take charge of briefing the others. It was also discussed, when it would make sense to act individually and when to speak on behalf of the region or subregion in order to raise a stronger voice at the COP. A teleconference was set for August with an update of the resolutions in question and a WhatsApp group was set up by the Secretariat to facilitate communication.

5.13. Concerted Action

Three concerted actions fall under this region: the Eastern Tropical Pacific Sperm Whale *Physeter macrocephalus* with Ecuador, Panama, Chile and Peru as Range States, the Mobulas covered by all Latin American countries with a coastline and, the Whale Shark *Rhincodon typus* found in Argentina; Brazil; Chile; Costa Rica; Cuba; Ecuador; Honduras; Panama; Peru; Uruguay; and Venezuela. The workshop participants formed three groups to explore these concerted actions in more detail. Each group presented a summary to the others and all agreed that all three concerted actions would be endorsed by the region at the Conference.

5.14. Shark Cocktail

The Pew Charitable Trusts gave a **Shark presentation** in the afternoon of the last day followed by a farewell dinner in the evening at the vegan restaurant Ali Pacha. Carlos Polo Silva and Max Bello presented key shark conservation issues and the need for countries to jointly implement conservation action. It was clear that a number of migratory sharks across the globe are widely threatened, and much needs to be done to improve their

conservation status. The justification for listing the proposed new species to CMS Appendices was demonstrated, and Parties from the region were encouraged to actively support shark conservation measures during the COP and beyond.

5.15. National Reporting

National reporting is one of the requirements of Parties, and the rate of reporting in the run-up to COP12 has improved on previous COPs, reaching a record high, with 66% of Parties in Latin America and overall 73% globally submitting reports. Hanah Al-Samaraie reminded participants about the need for reporting, which is an important means to monitor the implementation of the Convention, with the results used for decision-making and planning. The format of national reports for CMS is online and in the three working languages of the COP. This online reporting system (ORS) is a versatile web-based platform that is flexible and easy to use.

Whilst national reports are important for the Convention and its Secretariat, they also benefit countries by providing a unique framework for data collection and information, a tool for sharing information and in enabling countries to identify conservation issues that need to be addressed within their country and region. Ultimately, Governments can use the information for decision-making, whilst they and NGOs can use it to prioritise field / conservation activities.

Some of the key issues concerning national reporting were raised in the group. Clearly, it is important for NFPs to ensure the timely delivery of national reports, but it is also important that the process of reporting is as easy as possible. Constraints identified were:

- Technical issues (unfamiliarity with reporting format)
- Online issues (not always easy to get online, especially at work; difficult to share with other stakeholders, especially those who cannot get online)
- NFP issues (new NFPs, password, collaborators in different agency etc.)
- The burden of reporting requirements, especially for those NFPs who were also focal points for other conventions, as well as meeting various national and project reporting needs; this issue was especially relevant in Latin America. Reports also should be concise and in a format, that is practical and useful.

It became apparent that the reports as they stand were not effectively utilized after they were handed in. Ugo Vercillo from Brazil advocated the group to make the most out of the reports, as he found it very useful as a monitoring system on national implementation.

5.16. Communication exercise

Good communication is an important skill for NFPs and others, and the COP and other large events often present opportunities for press releases and interviews. Participants were asked to pair up and record mock interviews related to COP12, based around the following initial questions:

- How are migratory species important for the future in your country?
- What issues of the CMS COP12 agenda are most relevant for you?
- What roles do migratory species play in sustainable development?

Some interviews were played back at the end and perceived useful. Lessons learned included that respondents should make their answers relevant but also interesting, and should avoid 'lists', e.g. of achievements or actions. It was better to try to focus on some key issues and 'tell a story'. Being concise and to-the-point, as well as speaking slowly and clearly were further suggestions. This exercise was put to the test, when several participants were interviewed by Bolivian journalists after the workshop had finished.

5.17. COP12 preparation and looking ahead & beyond

During the COP, there would be an opportunity for all LAC countries to meet every morning. Side events relevant for LAC at the COP12 included the proposals from Peru and Honduras, Alternatives to lead poisoning, Migration Atlas, Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs), and Sharks. The deadline for submitting proposals for side events is past. Both Jessica Galvez from Peru and Max Bello from Pew seized the occasion to encourage their fellow Latin Americans to support their side-events.

In planning for CMS COP12, participants decided that they would nominate representatives for various working groups and committees. They formed a WhatsApp group to keep each other informed and agreed to hold a number of teleconferences with regular updates on the preparation status in the run-up of COP12. Due to the limited number of regional representatives in comparison with the large regions of Europe and Africa, in terms of members, it was to be carefully decided who would represent the group in which forum at the Conference.

The Government of Bolivia questioned about the deadline for registration including visa provisions, which it was answered, had been extended until 15th August for funded delegates, whilst self-funding delegates could register right up to the COP12. The Philippines government would prepare to organize for the receipt of visas on arrival; delegates would require invitation letters, which the Secretariat would organize in collaboration with the Philippines government.

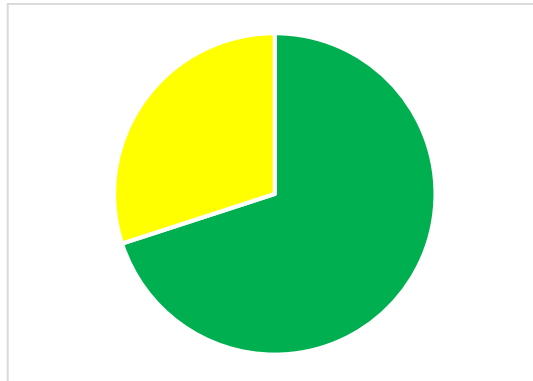
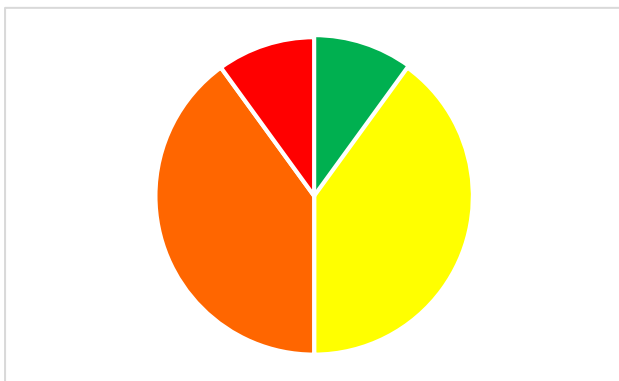
In preparation for the COP, Parties needed to submit credentials for national delegations and letters of full powers and all supporting documents for signing by their Head of State or Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Full powers indicate that a person is granted authority to negotiate the instrument on behalf of their country. The Secretariat had requested that funded NFPs / delegates submit these documents before they can purchase flight tickets. Several representatives considered that this was far too early to launch credentials procedures, it was not possible to obtain those more than three months before the COP. The delegates requested the Secretariat to provide a better solution to accommodate national procedures.

Ecuador requested information on the High-Level Panel that was to take place the day before COP12, and asked what is required of the NFP and the Minister. The focal point for this at the Secretariat was Laura Cerasi (laura.cerasi@cms.int), who answer any further questions. The panel participants included invited Ministers, with a breakfast and panel meeting. It is hoped that this event will build momentum for migratory species, especially through linking the CMS agenda to main theme of the forthcoming session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA3), which is 'Towards a Pollution-free Planet' and to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Government of the Philippines will support the participation of up to three ministers per region and draw up a declaration on the SDGs and Migratory Species resulting from this High-Level Meeting.

6. Evaluation

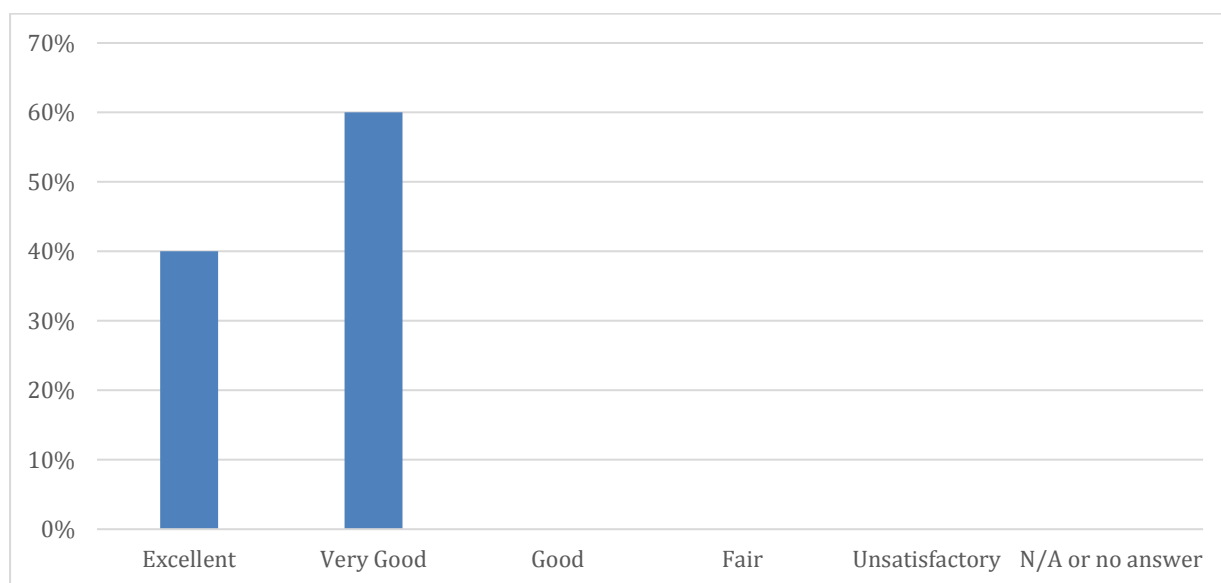
The analysis of evaluation questions revealed a positive evaluation of the workshop, with all participants appreciating the workshop approach and presentation of information for preparing for CMS COP12, with 100% rating it as 'excellent'. The workshop definitely contributed to an improved knowledge / understanding of the COP12 documents, as shown by the pie charts below, demonstrating the value of pre-COP workshops for Latin America and the Caribbean:

*Participants' knowledge/understanding of the CMS COP documents **before** (left) and **after** (right) the workshop, where **green = good**, **yellow = sufficient**, **orange = limited** and **red = none** understanding.*



All participants rated the facilitation / training as excellent. Participants rated the presentations and working sessions positively, yielding the ranking shown in the following chart, with 100% of responses recorded as excellent or very good or good. The most popular sessions were the visit to La Paz, the plenary simulation and the COP12 document preparation, both through interactive lectures and group work.

Time wise, all participants considered that a meeting of three days was the right length. All participants appreciated the interactive workshop approach and presentation of information, whilst all were satisfied with the support of the UN Environment/CMS Secretariat in preparation of the workshop, including communication.



Comments relating to the workshop and potential improvement included:

- Achieving the participation of more Parties, including more NGOs
- documentation of support, send before for revision
- The workshop was excellent. The only thing that could be improved, relates to the NFP, that we should arrive better prepared
- Maybe you could include something. about how the Standing Committee works, that was not very detailed
- Congratulations, a very dynamic but overall very illustrative workshop. Many thanks Francisco and Hanah for facilitating it and many thanks to the government of Bolivia for the organization and the hospitality
- The professional organization of Bolivia was excellent and warm

7. Annexes

- Annex 1. Workshop Agenda**
- Annex 2. List of participants**
- Annex 3. Relevant CMS COP12 documents for LAC identified prior to the meeting**
- Annex 4. A selection of photos from the workshop**

Annex 1. Workshop AGENDA

Día	Mañana		Tarde		Noche
Mart 18 de julio	8:30-09:00: Registración	Especies migratorias, CMS & roles de un PFN - Repaso: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concurso en grupos (PL EJ) 	Preparación para la CMS COP12: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Temas de prioridad: Llegar a un acuerdo común (GT & PL comentario) 	Especies: Modificación de los apéndices: Propuestas de especies (GT): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. murciélagos b. tiburones c. Plan de acción para los corredores aéreos de las Américas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Propuestas de especies (PL D) 	Coctel de bienvenida
	Sesión de apertura: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bienvenida & apertura Presentación & expectativas de los participantes Agenda del taller Introducción de la actividad de comunicación 	Preparación para la CMS COP12: Agenda y puntos claves para la COP12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orden del Día de la COP12 (PL P) Examen de Resoluciones (PL P) Priorizar cuestiones claves para América Latina y el Caribe + identificar dirigentes (PL D) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Logística & planificación para la COP12 Introducir posiciones regionales Acoger la COP13 (PL PI & D) 		
Mier 19 de julio	Visita por La Paz	Preparación para la CMS COP12: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan estratégico para las Especies Migratorias 2015-2023 / Legislación Nacional para la adopción de disposiciones de la CMS / Desechos Marinos (PL Ps) Presupuesto y Programa de Trabajo 2018-2020 / Proceso de revisión para la Convención (GT) 	Preparación para la CMS COP12: (cerrado): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grupo de trabajo - ALC: funcionamiento Nombramiento de representantes Acuerdo sobre prioridades y temas claves 	Participación a la CMS COP12: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repaso de negociación (PL PI) Simulación de una reunión con una prioridad clave de la región: Avances en la prevención del envenenamiento de aves migratorias (JR PL) 	Opción de continuar la sesión cerrada
Jue 20 de julio	Participación a la CMS COP12: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Puntos claves de negociación de relevancia regional para la COP12: hábitats intermareales y costeros / captura incidental (PL D) carne de animales salvajes x2 / interacciones recreacionales en agua con mamíferos acuáticos & Observación sostenible de vida silvestre desde embarcaciones (GT) 	Implementación: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementación nacional de CMS: Bolivia (PL PI EC) Iniciativas regionales (flamencos alto andinos) (PL R) Tomar medidas para las especies migratorias: Implementación de planes de acción / resultados del taller de migración (ej. Brasil) (GT & PL D) 	Implementación: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comunicación (PL video clips) Sistema en línea de Informes Nacionales (PL P&R) Aumentar la visibilidad de ALC para la CMS COP12 y más allá (PL LLI & D) 	Sesión de clausura: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conclusiones del Taller Mirando hacia adelante a la COP12 Evaluación Clausura 	Cena de despedida

Approx. times: Morning sessions 08:45-12:45; afternoon sessions 14:00-17:30. Lunch 12:45-14:00. Coffee & tea breaks provided.

Abbreviations: PL: Plenary; L (IL): (Interactive) Lecture; GW: Group Work; EX: Exercise; D: Discussion; CS: Case Study; RP: Role Play; B: Brainstorming; Q&A: Question & Answer

Colours: These represent chapter numbers and their respective colours in the CMS Family Manual.

Annex 2. Workshop Participants

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Annex 3. Relevant CMS COP12 documents for LAC identified prior to the meeting

Topic
Community participation
Budget and POW
Revised resolutions, e.g. NBSAPs, Climate change, Wildlife diseases, Renewable energies; Vulture action plan, which could be adapted to the Condor eventually
National Reports
Concerted actions (Mobiliid rays, sperm whale)
Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023
Marine Debris
Bycatch
Boat-based tourism
Poisoning
Listing proposals: bat, shark
Flyways
Whales of South Atlantic (Brazil's draft Resolution and Action Plan)
Wild meat

Annex 4. A selection of photos from the workshop







