



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme



37th Meeting of the Standing Committee

Bonn, 23-24 November 2010

CMS/StC37/10/Rev.1
Agenda Item 7.d and 7.e

CMS STRATEGIC PLAN

Assessment of the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2006-2011 and elaboration of the Strategic Plan for the next six-year period

Document prepared by the CMS Secretariat

Introduction

1. Article VII, paragraph 5, of the Convention requires the Conference of the Parties to review the implementation of the Convention, and, in particular, to decide on any additional measures that should be taken to implement its objectives.
2. In 1991, the Third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP3) recognised the importance of outlining a strategy for the future development of the Convention.
3. Such a strategy is intended to provide the basis for developing the goals that the Convention aims to reach to ensure a coherent approach to its implementation at all levels.
4. Three strategic plans for the Convention have so far been adopted for the following six-year periods: 1995-2000; 2000-2005 and 2006-2011.

Background

Review of the Current Strategic Plan (2006-2011)

5. Resolution 8.2, requested the Conference of the Parties to review the Strategic Plan at its ninth and tenth meetings in the light of the Plan's stated targets, milestones and indicators and in line with paragraph 5.5 of the Plan.
6. The Secretariat carried out an assessment of the activities undertaken by the CMS institutional bodies from 2006 to 2008 (UNEP/CMS/Conf.9.5 and its Addendum) which implemented the objectives of the Plan and submitted it to CoP9 in 2008.
7. Over the last four years, the Secretariat also reported contributions made by the CMS Secretariat to the implementation of the Plan to each inter-sessional meeting of the Standing Committee including the present meeting (CMS/StC37/09).

Elaboration of the Strategic Plan 2012-2017

8. CoP9 did not give any clear mandate assigning responsibility for devising the next Strategic Plan 2012-17. Resolution 9.13 however instructed the ad hoc Working Group on the Future Shape of the CMS and the CMS Family (ISWGoFS) to take into account in its deliberations, contents of the current Strategic Plan and the development of a new Strategic Plan 2012- 2017.
9. In consideration of the two above-mentioned elements, the ISWGoFS, requested the Standing Committee, at its 36th session, to decide on the best way forward.
11. At its 36th meeting, the Standing Committee agreed that the 2006-11 Plan be extended

for one year (2012), and to mandate a dedicated Working Group at COP10 to elaborate the text of a new Strategic Plan for 2013-17 reflecting fully the outcome of the Future Shape process. The Standing Committee may have to consider adopting the Strategic Plan 2013-17 on an interim basis pending the COP 11 confirmation and adoption in 2014.

Current situation and proposal

Review of the Current Strategic Plan (2006-2011)

12. The Plan, in paragraph 5.5, foresees that the end-of-term review, to be submitted to CoP10 in 2011, could be led by the Standing Committee, or, if resources allow, by an independent external assessment.

13. A full review of the implementation of the Convention would entail evaluating the achievements of the Plan's targets made by the CMS institutional bodies; daughter instruments; by individual Contracting Parties as well as challenges and lessons learned, if any.

14. Member States and Signatories report on the activities undertaken at a national level to implement the CMS Family at each Conference/Meeting of the Parties and/or Signatories to the instruments through their National Reports.

15. However, contributions of Contracting Parties towards the conservation of migratory species cannot currently be taken into account in the reviews of the implementation of the CMS Strategic Plan as the two exercises are taking place in parallel.

16. Furthermore, the implementation of an online reporting system including its harmonization within the CMS Family through the development of common modules is still at an early stage. The collection of data provided by countries across the CMS Family therefore still requires significant coordination efforts.

17. In view of the scattered data on the national implementation of the CMS Family and in view of the overlap of time between reporting and assessing, the Secretariat would propose to postpone the evaluation of the implementation of the 2006-2011 Plan to the period between COP10 and COP11.

Elaboration of the Strategic Plan 2012-2017

18. The outcome of the Future Shape process, which will be decided by COP10 in November 2011, may recommend structural, institutional and even legal changes of different magnitude within the Convention and its daughter instruments. Even though the current Strategic Plan provides a flexible tool both in terms of structure and content, it might not be suited to outline the development of the Convention resolved in the context of the Future Shape process. It is therefore felt that the elaboration of a new Strategic Plan might require more than a year as previously agreed.

19. The Secretariat would propose to update the current Strategic Plan to cover the next three-year period (2012-2014) without making substantive changes. This proposal would allow gaining sufficient time to elaborate the Strategic Plan for 2015-2020 to be submitted to COP11 in 2014 on the basis of the final outcome of the Future Shape process and on the results and recommendations of the assessment of the 2006-2011(14) Plan.

20. COP10 may therefore wish to establish a Working Group to elaborate, inter-sessionally, the Strategic Plan for 2015-2020. However, given the complex nature of the task and the extensive work that it entails, inputs from an external assessment would be a prerequisite to complement the efforts of the Working Group. The Secretariat therefore requests the Standing Committee to consider these additional cost implications while making a decision for the elaboration of the future Strategic Plan.

Action requested:

The Standing Committee is requested to consider the proposals made regarding the fashion, timing and responsibilities of the assessment of the current Strategic Plan and the elaboration of the new one and make its recommendations.