



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

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36th Meeting of the Standing Committee

Bonn, 2-3 December 2009

CMS/StC36/14
Agenda Item 9.a

REVIEWS OF CMS EXISTING AGREEMENTS AND RELATED PROJECTS UNDER RESOLUTION 9.2

Document prepared by the CMS Secretariat at the request of and in cooperation with the Inter-sessional Working Group on the Future Shape of CMS

Background

1. The Ninth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS requested, through Resolution 9.2 paragraph 6, that reviews be undertaken of existing agreements and related projects covering three taxonomic groups, these being terrestrial mammals, marine species and birds. These reviews are to be carried out “in the context of the inter-sessional process regarding the Future Shape of CMS initiated by Resolution 9.13”.

2. While planning how to carry out its mandate early this year, the Inter-Sessional Working Group on the Future Shape of CMS (ISWGoFS) agreed that these reviews should feed into the first step of the Future Shape process which consists of an assessment of the current organisation of CMS and its instruments (CMS Family).

3. However, Resolution 9.2 does not indicate how and by whom the reviews should be carried out, and neither Resolution 9.13 nor its Addendum explicitly mentions that the reviews should be elaborated by the ISWGoFS.

4. As neither the ISWGoFS nor the Secretariat had the capacity to undertake these reviews, the ISWGoFS recommended that the Secretariat would approach potential donors to raise funds for their production. Unfortunately, so far, no voluntary contributions have been obtained for this purpose.

5. On the other hand, a generous contribution from the Government of France made possible the compilation by a consultancy firm of a report to facilitate the ISWGoFS’s tasks relating to the first step of the Future Shape process. This report consists of an evaluation of the operation of the CMS Family in terms of its institutional, legal, scientific, organisational and budgetary capacity to carry out the activities mandated by the Parties and identifies the advantages and the drawbacks of the system in place.

Current situation

6. The First Meeting of the ISWGoFS took place in Bonn from 19 to 20 October 2009 to review the draft of the report on the first step of the Future Shape process, and plan the work ahead. The final draft report will be submitted to the 36th meeting of the Standing Committee for consideration as document StC 36/15.

7. It was agreed that the assessment carried out so far would need further elaboration to provide a sound basis upon which the second and third steps of the Future Shape process should build. In addition to the comments that will be provided by the Standing Committee, the ISWGoFS in fact expects to receive some further inputs by the CMS Secretariat and the Agreement Secretariats relating to the management and functioning of the Convention's current instruments. Therefore, the ISWGoFS seeks the Standing Committee's decision on how to proceed, especially with a view to fulfilling the provisions of Res. 9.2.paragraph 6.

8. At the meeting, the ISWGoFS also considered how to proceed with the reviews of existing agreements and related projects requested by Resolution 9.2 paragraph 6. Two options on the way forward were identified, which are submitted to the Standing Committee for its consideration.

Option 1

9. The ISWGoFS considered that a more in-depth analysis of all CMS instruments could benefit the Future Shape process. Therefore it would welcome the production of the reviews of the three taxonomic groups foreseen in Res. 9.2 paragraph 6. However, it acknowledged that substantial additional resources would be needed for these reviews. In case this is the preferred option the ISWGoFS therefore advocates that the Standing Committee should assist in finding the necessary resources.

10. The ISWGoFS meeting decided that the ISWGoFS and the Secretariat should elaborate jointly the Terms of Reference for the three reviews, with a view to submitting them to the Standing Committee at its 36th session. Terms of Reference are still being elaborated.

Option 2

11. The ISWGoFS acknowledged that the draft report of the first phase of the Future Shape of CMS already met to some extent the mandate of Res.9.2 paragraph 6. Should the Standing Committee not wish to consider Option 1 and should additional resources not be available, the ISWGoFS might not be able to carry out the reviews in a fully appropriate manner. Nevertheless, in view of the degree of overlap between the requirements of Res. 9.2 paragraph 6 and the remit of the ISWGoFS set out in Res. 9.13 paragraph 3 bullet 1, it is expected that the work which will be undertaken in the context of the second and third step of the process will provide further elements in response to Res. 9.2 paragraph 6. The second option would therefore be to consider the provisions of Res. 9.2 paragraph 6 generally fulfilled through the Future Shape process, without the need of separate reviews.

Action requested:

Standing Committee to consider the options proposed by the ISWGoFS and to decide which option should be followed.