

## 48<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee

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### **COOPERATION BETWEEN IPBES AND CMS**

*(Prepared by the Secretariat)*

**Summary:**

CMS COP12 reaffirmed the importance of strengthening the cooperation between the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and CMS, with the intent of promoting the implementation of the Convention science-policy interface at all levels.

This document reports progress to date on the collaboration with IPBES and it outlines: (i) a preliminary evaluation of IPBES summaries for policymakers in relation to the relevance of the summaries to CMS and the process for completing a comprehensive review of IPBES assessments; and (ii) CMS contributions to the ongoing processes for reviewing the effectiveness of the administrative and scientific functions of IPBES and for developing its second work programme (2020-2030).

This document includes Annex I.

## Introduction

1. Since its establishment in 2012, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) has recognized the critical role that migratory species plays in the planet's biodiversity, ecosystems and people's wellbeing. The CMS Secretariat has been accredited as a permanent observer to the Plenary and the Chair of the CMS Scientific Council as an observer to the meetings of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP) of IPBES.
2. Following the mandate received by the Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS (COP10, 20-25 November 2011, Norway) through Resolution 10.8, CMS has maintained cooperative working relationships with IPBES through participating in its meetings and relevant processes with the intention of promoting the implementation of the Convention science-policy interface at all levels.
3. CMS COP12 (23-28 October 2017, the Philippines) reaffirmed the importance of strengthening the cooperation between IPBES and CMS through the approval of Resolution 10.8 (Rev.COP12) and Decisions 12.13 and 12.14.

## Review of IPBES assessments and associated summaries for policymakers in relation to their relevance to CMS

4. The Secretariat has conducted a preliminary review of the Summaries for Policymakers (SPMs) associated with the IPBES Regional and Thematic Assessments which have been endorsed by the IPBES 6-Plenary. This evaluation aimed at appraising the relevance of the above-mentioned SPMs to CMS as well as considering how their recommendations can be integrated into CMS processes.
5. The analysis of these SPMs has revealed that they have only partial relevance to the CMS mandate due to the limited data and information provided on migratory species and their movements. These SPMs generally address biodiversity as a whole, rarely providing more specific data and considerations on wildlife and in particular on migratory species. General considerations on biodiversity can obviously be valid to migratory species; however, they do not allow distillation of migratory species' specific needs, which CMS is expected to address.
6. Furthermore, some of the SPMs appear more relevant than others as their respective regional and sub-regional assessments reveal very significant differences in terms of approach adopted to undertake them. The assumption is that this derives from differences between their corresponding terms of reference and scoping papers.
7. The CMS Secretariat presented elements of this preliminary evaluation to the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the IPBES Bureau and MEP (25-29 June 2018, Bonn). It intends to further the evaluation with a more comprehensive review of the IPBES Assessments, once they are published, and submit it to CMS COP13 for its consideration and guidance.
8. The CMS Secretariat seeks the Standing Committee's views on these reflections as well as on the process proposed to undertake a full analysis of IPBES outputs.

### CMS contributions to the review of the effectiveness of the administrative and scientific functions of IPBES

9. As part of the first work programme of IPBES, its Plenary, in decision IPBES-2/5, mandated a review of the effectiveness of the administrative and scientific functions of IPBES. In the context of a call for inputs to the strategic framework of the future IPBES work programme, the CMS Secretariat, also on behalf of CMS Agreement Secretariats, has provided inputs which are relevant to the ongoing review of IPBES.
10. With regards to allowing recurrent requests for IPBES deliverables to be received, considered and approved, the CMS Secretariat has recommended the establishment of a formal link to the decision-making bodies of the biodiversity-related Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) which have different COP cycles thus allowing consideration of requests from these bodies.
11. Concerning ways to further strengthen the engagement of partners, the CMS Secretariat has proposed the establishment of mechanisms through which biodiversity-related MEAs' decisions and resolutions feed into IPBES priority setting. The creation of such a link would also ensure that IPBES outputs are considered by these MEAs as a basis for their decision-making processes thus avoiding both duplication of individual MEAs' efforts and creation of parallel processes. If IPBES deliverables responded to the needs of the MEAs, synergies could be achieved in terms of communication and outreach as well as resource mobilization, maximizing results and minimizing individual investments.
12. The CMS Secretariat has reported these considerations to the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the IPBES Bureau and MEP. On this occasion, it also requested the involvement of CMS in the definition of any new assessment from its inception phase specifically in the formulation of Terms of Reference and scoping papers.
13. Following Resolution 10.8 (Rev.COP12) paragraph 1, the CMS Secretariat recommends the regional representatives of the Standing Committee to liaise with CMS Focal Points in their regions and with their IPBES counterpart representatives with a view to promote these considerations in IPBES deliberations.

### CMS contributions to the development of the IPBES second work programme (2020-2030)

14. The process for the development of the IPBES second work programme is currently ongoing. IPBES-6 Plenary (18-24 March 2018, Colombia) considered initial draft elements and the final document will be adopted at the IPBES-7 Plenary (29 April - 4 May 2019, France).
15. CMS Decision 12.13 specifically requests its Scientific Council to “undertake a review of needs and opportunities for improving the interface between science and policy in relation to the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species. This should include the use of scientific assessments, and consider the potential role of migratory species as indicators of wider ecological change and the results should be communicated to IPBES.”
16. In parallel with identifying resources for such assessment, and following Resolution 10.8 (Rev.COP12) paragraph 4, CMS has the opportunity to contribute to shaping future IPBES priorities and ensure that the needs for research and policy guidance related to migratory species are being adequately addressed.

17. To this end, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the CMS Scientific Council (ScC-SC3, 29 May-1 June 2018, Bonn) recognized the need to make contributions to the IPBES process and prioritized such action in the Programme of Work of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council for 2018-2020.
18. In July 2018, the MEP and the Bureau of the IPBES issued a call for requests, inputs and suggestions on short-term priorities and longer-term strategic needs that require attention and action by IPBES as part of its future work programme ([https://www.ipbes.net/sites/default/files/em\\_2018\\_14\\_call\\_for\\_requests.pdf](https://www.ipbes.net/sites/default/files/em_2018_14_call_for_requests.pdf)). The CMS Secretariat has invited the Scientific Council and Parties, through a notification, to provide such inputs, including proposing new assessments of interest to CMS. The deadline has been set for 14 September 2018.
19. The CMS Secretariat will collect all inputs received and compile them in Annex I, which will be available at the latest stage, for the Standing Committee consideration and approval. These inputs will be subsequently submitted to IPBES.
20. In addition to the above-mentioned contributions, the CMS Secretariat has already brought to the attention of the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the IPBES Bureau and MEP, the need to take into consideration migratory species as an important component of biodiversity and dedicate specific analyses in all future IPBES assessments, both Thematic and Regional.

#### Recommended Actions:

The Standing Committee is recommended to:

- a) Take note of the above report;
- b) Consider the preliminary evaluation of IPBES Summaries for policymakers and agree on the process to develop a comprehensive review of the relevance of IPBES Assessments to CMS, to be submitted to COP13;
- c) Review, endorse and provide necessary guidance on the inputs in Annex I related to the development of the future work programme of IPBES.

Regional members are requested to:

- a) Liaise with CMS Focal Points in their regions and with their IPBES counterparts in every relevant fora, to promote the considerations outlined in the document with a view to improve the Convention's science-policy interface at all levels.