



# Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme



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### UPDATE ON SYNERGIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

*(Prepared by the UNEP/CMS Secretariat)*

#### Introduction

1. In the 2012-2014 triennium, the Secretariat is focusing on consolidating and strengthening its many existing partnerships, as instructed by CMS Resolution 10.21. The Secretariat is also conscious that partnership agreements require time and effort in order to effectively maintain relationships and joint activities. Due to resource constraints, entering into new formal partnerships is considered only for highly strategic purposes or when an agreement is needed to formalize joint activities.

2. This report highlights the current state of activities, as at September 2012, undertaken with partners since the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CMS Conference of the Parties (COP10).

#### CMS Family

3. The Secretariat continues to streamline activities within the CMS Family, consistent with the mandate of each instrument. For example, the CMS Family On-line Reporting System for national reports, which was developed by UNEP-WCMC in close collaboration with and under the guidance of the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat (and was used for AEWA MOP5 reporting), is now being adopted by CMS and other daughter instruments. The system provides a concrete example of and proposal for further streamlining national reporting for the various MEAs and ultimately for the harmonization of their reporting processes.

4. The CMS Secretariat also takes the lead in fundraising for common CMS Family projects and joint implementation, such as the ones related to the development of the CMS Family Website and workspaces (web-based communication spaces and working areas for the institutional bodies of CMS and its instruments). A significant grant has also been recently received from the ENRTP<sup>1</sup> Strategic Cooperation Agreement between the European Commission - DG Environment and UNEP to support capacity building activities focused in Africa covering the current triennium (see Documents UNEP/CMS/StC40/10.4 (Resource Mobilization) and UNEP/CMS/StC40/10.15 (Capacity building) for more details).

5. The inter-sessional process related to the CMS Strategic Plan (both the review of the implementation of the current strategic plan, and the scoping of the context for the future strategic plan for 2015-2023) provides another opportunity for engagement with the various CMS instrument Secretariats at the strategic level, including, where relevant, with their institutional bodies and expert groups (see Document CMS/StC40/12 about the strategic plan process).

<sup>1</sup> The European Commission thematic programme for Environment and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources including Energy (ENRTP)

## UN agencies, MEAs and other inter-governmental bodies

### *Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions (Biodiversity Liaison Group or BLG)*

6. Given that the Executive Secretary positions of both the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) and CMS have been under recruitment in this period, BLG has not met since its last annual retreat held in September 2011. Discussions are underway with the new CBD Executive Secretary, to plan the next meeting. Meanwhile, liaison has continued individually with BLG members in the form of implementation of joint work plans, and enhancing synergies when possible.

### *UNEP Regional Biodiversity MEA Focal Points*

7. UNEP continues to provide invaluable support, from its thematic programmes and regional offices. Regional Biodiversity MEA Focal Points visited the Secretariats of CMS, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in June 2012. Intensive briefing sessions over two days at CMS gave the focal points a deeper understanding of the work of the CMS Secretariat as well as the Secretariats of its instruments, its priority areas and activities. Each of the focal points is now developing a regional work plan to put in place a framework for their assistance with implementation of the biodiversity-related MEAs.

### *Environment Management Group*

8. The Environment Management Group (EMG)<sup>2</sup> Issue Management Group on biodiversity (in which the CMS Secretariat participates) is assisting with a UN system-wide response to support the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Targets. As a first step, the Group on Biodiversity is developing a matrix to map each agency's strategies and activities *vis-à-vis* the Aichi Targets. The mapping will provide an overall picture of members' areas of contribution towards achieving the Aichi Targets, and enable a discussion about potential areas of cooperation among agencies as well as identifying existing gaps.

### *Biodiversity MEAs*

9. Activities being undertaken pursuant to the CMS/CBD Joint Work Plan for 2012-2014 include those related to bush meat issues, regional NBSAP workshops and the Scientific Task Force on Wildlife and Ecosystem Health. The CBD Secretariat is also assisting by promoting the CMS document *Guidance for Parties on the Integration of Migratory Species into NBSAPs*.

10. CMS is working with the CBD Secretariat and the other biodiversity-related conventions to promote the conservation and sustainable use of animal species in CBD processes. For example, under the lead of CITES, CMS will participate in a proposed joint side event to promote the reconnection of species with ecosystems and why species matter – at the time of writing this report, this event was intended to be presented at CBD COP11 in October 2012.

11. CITES Standing Committee at its 62<sup>nd</sup> meeting (Geneva, July 2012) endorsed the CMS/CITES Joint Work Plan 2012-2014. The Secretariat has worked with CITES, through both its Secretariat and its committees, on furthering numerous issues including shared species such as

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<sup>2</sup> The EMG is a UN system-wide coordination body aiming to enhance inter-agency cooperation on environmental issues. Its membership consists of the specialized agencies, programmes and organs of the UN, including the secretariats of MEAs, plus the Bretton Woods Institutions and the World Trade Organization. UNEP hosts the EMG secretariat in Geneva, and the UNEP Executive Director is the Chair of the Group.

elephants, sharks, turtles and raptors, and on emerging issues such as new markets for trade in animal products.

12. Cooperation with Ramsar has been extended by the signing of an updated Memorandum of Cooperation between the Secretariats in April 2012. The CMS/Ramsar Joint Work Plan for the period 2012-2014 has paved the way to further cooperation and ensuring that the work of our two secretariats is aligned on, among other issues, climate change, wildlife diseases and bird poisoning. The annual World Wetlands Day and World Migratory Bird Day campaigns have also benefited from the mutual support of both partners.

13. At a side event at the Ramsar COP (Bucharest, July 2012), the CMS Family Online Reporting System was presented to promote the use of the new system to other MEAs. The same event will be organized at the CBD COP11 in October 2012.

#### *Other conventions and inter-governmental bodies*

14. The Secretariat has established new focal points from the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Joint briefings have been held (in person, in the case of the agencies based in Bonn) and synergies are being developed. For example, the Secretariat has contributed text about migratory species issues to a joint IUCN/UNCCD/UNEP publication entitled “Conserving Drylands Biodiversity” which is being launched at the IUCN World Conservation Congress (6 - 15 September 2012, Jeju, Republic of Korea), and the two secretariats are developing a joint fact sheet to raise awareness about the overlapping key objectives of the two conventions.

15. The Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) has been hosting the CMS Pacific Officer position since January this year. The Officer is having a very positive impact in the region, promoting the objectives of the Convention, and supporting the implementation of the Dugong, Sharks and Pacific Islands Cetaceans MoUs.

### **Civil Society**

#### *Strengthening existing partnerships*

16. A side event on civil society dialogue was convened at CMS COP10 by the Migratory Wildlife Network (MWN) and the Friends of CMS. Outcomes of the side event included a view that civil society’s contribution to CMS could be better developed and deployed, better facilitated, and better reported and acknowledged. As a result, MWN is currently conducting a review of the contribution of civil society to the Convention on behalf of the CMS civil society partners. This review is funded by NGOs, donor(s) and a small financial contribution from the Secretariat. It is expected that the results of this review will help provide more complete information about civil society’s contribution to CMS, and provide a useful input to the inter-sessional process for developing the CMS Strategic Plan 2015-2023.

17. Some examples of current collaboration with NGO partners are given below:

- a) The Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums (AMMPA) published a book entitled “Mediterranean Monk Seals”, in cooperation with the European Association for Aquatic Mammals. The book aims to educate school children and tourists about the Monk Seal. Any profits from sales of the book will go to The Hellenic Society for the Study and Protection of the Monk Seal.

- b) BirdLife International (BLI) has recruited a coordinator (funded by BLI partners in the United Kingdom (RSPB), Switzerland (SVS) and Sweden (SOF)) to work on the African-Eurasian Migratory Landbird Action Plan. The coordinator is located in BLI's West Africa Office in Ghana.
- c) Friends of CMS (Freunde der Bonner Konvention (FBK)) continues to explore fundraising opportunities for the Convention, in particular with the private sector. "Friends" is supporting the second phase of a project aiming to develop a "porpoise alarm" to mitigate by-catch in harbour porpoises.
- d) International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and the Secretariat are developing a simple joint work plan to formalize and stimulate activities in our areas of overlapping priorities. Such priorities include marine mammals, sharks, raptors, elephants, and habitat protection and connectivity for migratory species.
- e) The Saiga Conservation Alliance and the Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan provide continuing technical coordination support for the implementation of the Saiga MoU and the associated Medium-Term International Work Programme (2011-2015).
- f) The Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society (WDCS) continues to provide scientific and technical advice about marine mammals to the CMS family, and coordinates the Technical Advisory Group of the Pacific Islands Cetaceans MoU.
- g) The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) is implementing a CMS Cross River Gorilla project in Cameroon/Nigeria, funded by a voluntary contribution made by Norway at CMS COP10. The project is focusing on habitat outside protected areas and aims to conserve community forests in both countries. Through its office in South Sudan, WCS is also one of the partners in the ecological networks in Africa project on the White-eared Kob migration.
- h) Many organizations are contributing to the success of the Year of the Bat campaign, of which the founding partners include the IUCN Bat Specialist Group, Bat Conservation International and the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA).

18. In other cases, partners receive funding from the Secretariat and other sources, and with little financial support they provide significant results. Examples are given below:

- a) The International Crane Foundation (ICF) continues to coordinate the Siberian Crane MoU in close collaboration with the CMS Secretariat. Coordination activities to promote implementation of the MoU include the dissemination of news and information on Siberian cranes, education and awareness-raising activities such as support to the organization of crane celebrations in the range states, and overall communication with MoU stakeholders.
- b) The Migratory Wildlife Network (MWN) is helping to coordinate the Pacific Islands Cetaceans MoU, in close cooperation with WDCS.
- c) The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds coordinates the Aquatic Warbler MoU, in close collaboration with the Secretariat. It concentrates its efforts on information exchange between Range States, and developing projects to improve the conservation status of the species.
- d) The Sahara Conservation Fund (SCF) is a key partner for the implementation of the CMS Sahelo-Saharan Action plan, reinforcing coordination with Niger authorities and supporting the recently established 97,000 km<sup>2</sup> Termit and Tin Touma National Nature and Cultural Reserve.

### *Potential new partnerships*

19. The Secretariat also liaises with other organizations with which there is no formal partnership agreement, but with whom we have synergies, for example:

- a) Interpol and in particular its Environment Crime Programme, which is relevant for sharks, gorillas and elephants.
- b) WWF, as well as its global programmes, the WWF Russia office is working very closely with the Secretariat on most of the CMS Central Asian species.
- c) The Pew Environment Group, which is very active in shark conservation.

20. New formal partnerships are considered only for highly strategic purposes or when an agreement is needed to formalize joint activities.

21. The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), which is based in Abu Dhabi and has an office in Bonn, is keen to investigate joint activities, and the two Secretariats are exploring opportunities including the development of a joint project to ensure migratory species requirements are taken into account when making use of renewable energy technologies.

22. In the face of increasing threats to Arctic biodiversity, cooperation with regard to understanding biodiversity changes within this fragile and unique ecosystem is extremely important. CMS Resolutions 10.10 (Global Flyway Conservation) and 9.9 (Migratory Marine Species) request the Secretariat to strengthen collaboration with the Arctic Council. Similarly, the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF), the biodiversity working group of the Arctic Council, is requested by its Management Board to develop cooperation with CMS. The Secretariat attended the March 2012 meetings of the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME) and Senior Arctic Officials (SAO), and took the opportunity to hold talks with CAFF. The two Secretariats have since established closer contacts, and are together identifying overlapping priorities and achievable joint activities (such as information sharing) to benefit from and support each other's work.

### **Private Sector**

23. Consistent with the CMS Code of Conduct for Partnerships with the Private Sector, the Secretariat has strengthened contacts with HeidelbergCement (global manufacturers of building materials), which became partner of the Year of the Bat campaign and has been promoting it also through the regular bat nights they organize in their quarries. The Secretariat has contributed to expanding HeidelbergCement's mobile exhibition which promotes the importance of conserving biodiversity in quarries.

24. The Secretariat is engaging in collaboration with the CBD Secretariat in the Global Platform on Business and Biodiversity that assists companies in integrating biodiversity provisions into their strategies and decision making.

### **Action requested:**

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a. Note the progress made, as reported in this document;
- b. Provide any comments to guide the Secretariat further, in its implementation of synergies and partnerships in this inter-sessional period.