

44th Meeting of the Standing Committee

Bonn, Germany, 14 - 15 October 2015

Report on activities of the Strategic Plan Working Group

Ines Verleye, SPWG Chair

CMS COP Res 11.2

- Adopted the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species
- Noted the need for further inter-sessional work on implementation support
- Extended the mandate of the SPWG to address this as follows
 - a) Develop new/identify existing detailed indicators for the Strategic Plan
 - b) Develop a “Companion Volume on Implementation”
- Requested the Secretariat to produce background documents to support the discussions at the SPWG
 - a) CMS/SPWG3/Doc.2 Indicators for the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species
 - b) CMS/SPWG3/Doc.3 Programmes of Work, Action Plans and other implementation support tools developed within the CMS Family

Strategic Plan Working Group

3rd meeting, 12-13 October 2015, Bonn

Purpose: follow-up of COP11 mandate

Aim: to deliver concrete proposals to COP12 both on indicators and on the Companion Volume

SPWG is fully committed to take its responsibility to provide guidance and ensure the timely delivery of the results requested by COP.

Concerned that both issues are very technical but SPWG is not a technical expert group.

- Support from the Secretariat will be essential to deliver concrete results
- As the Strategic Plan was designed to guide all the work on migratory species, these results may prove to make an important difference in Parties capacity to fulfill their obligations.

Monitoring and Indicators

The SPWG focused discussions on what the actual results are to be monitored under each target and explored ways to develop a small set of indicators that will tell a coherent story about progress of the Strategic Plan.

Important to take into account real constraints regarding human, technical and financial resources to develop or identify cost-efficient, reliable indicators, preferably using existing data collection processes to minimize the burden on Parties and/or the Secretariat.

Further process:

- After initial discussions on questions and possible indicators for each Target, the Secretariat was requested to develop, in consultation with the Scientific Council, and taking into account input from the SPWG, a zero draft on indicators by early 2016 for consideration by the SPWG.
- This will then be submitted to public consultation by mid 2016 and the outcomes of that consultation will guide the SPWG at its 4th meeting end of 2016.

The Companion Volume

Note on the Companion Volume:

- To support engagement and high-level political commitment with a range of organizational arrangements and implementation measures.
- To assist governmental and non-governmental actors to translate and integrate the global targets of the SPMS into their specific regional and national contexts.
- To facilitate putting in place and executing the necessary means of implementation towards reaching the goals and objectives of the SPMS.
- Examples of chapters currently in the outline for the Companion Volume in Chapter 4 of the SPMS as implementation tools: outreach, capacity building, monitoring, cooperation, resource mobilization.

Outcomes of the SPWG Discussions

The outline of the Companion Volume is to support implementation of each Target

- Supports the political importance of the targets and approach for the indicators.

Given the large amount of documents and instruments to include, it was decided to explore the possibility to develop the Companion Volume as an online toolkit

- makes the Companion Volume an evolving toolkit
- allows for regular updating and additions as new information becomes available
- facilitates providing information per target, in particular regarding all tools within the CMS Family in support of that Target
- Encourages use of Strategic Plan and Targets widely throughout the Family

Need to get feedback from Parties, stakeholders and in particular the secretariats of the daughter agreements, to identify the existing implementation tools for each of the targets

- allows full overview of available tools in the CMS family
- Allows identification of gaps

Further process on the Companion Volume

The SPWG asked the Secretariat

- to restructure the compilation document to reflect the focus on targets and analyse the document to reflect the available instruments according to the targets
- to consult Parties, other stakeholders and the secretariats of the agreements to identify all existing/relevant implementation tools
- to identify gaps to report to to COP
- to explore the feasibility of developing this as an online toolkit
- to produce a zero draft for consultation by the SPWG early 2016, possibly followed by public consultation

Resources may be needed but the innovative approach and utility of this final product would largely warrant this.

Other relevant issues

- Link of discussions on indicators and the companion volume with the request to review the format of the national reports
- Importance of sub-targets from an implementation perspective: invite the further consideration of sub-targets
- Concern regarding communication to Parties regarding the current work of the SPWG: need to remind all Parties to already implement the SPMS as adopted by COP11 as the current work is to be considered as additional tools.

Thank you