



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

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COOPERATION BETWEEN CMS AND RAMSAR

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

Summary

This document consists of a cover note and an Annex including an updated Joint Work Plan (JWP) 2015-2017 for the CMS and Ramsar Conventions. At Standing Committee 44 (Bonn, October 2015), a JWP between CMS and Ramsar was discussed and adopted by the StC. Later, in June 2016 the 52nd meeting of the Ramsar Standing Committee (Gland, June 2016) discussed the JWP and proposed some changes. This new version of the JWP with the comments proposed by Ramsar is the one that is now submitted to CMS Standing Committee 45 for adoption. The updated JWP is organized in five sections: national policies; regional agreements and initiatives; management of species populations and wetland ecosystems; global science and policy; information, outreach and capacity building. The new JWP is submitted to the Standing Committee for its endorsement.

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COOPERATION BETWEEN CMS AND RAMSAR

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

1. At Standing Committee 44 (Bonn, October 2015), a Joint Work Programme (JWP) between the CMS and Ramsar Conventions was discussed and adopted by the Standing Committee. This new version of the JWP was an update of the previous JWP 2012-2014 with some additions to reflect new resolutions and activities adopted at CMS COP 11 (Quito, 2014) and Ramsar COP 12 (Punta del Este, 2015).
2. During Ramsar Standing Committee 51 (Gland, November 2015), the Secretariat took note of the comments expressed by the Contracting Parties with regards to some of the activities of the Joint Work Plan, and discussed with the CMS Secretariat the need to adjust the JWP according to the comments received by the Contracting Parties. Both Secretariats worked on the adjustments of the JWP in order to be submitted for the approval of the next Standing Committees of each Convention (SC45 of CMS in November 2016 and SC53 of Ramsar in 2017).
3. The new version of the JWP gives more emphasis to the need of cooperation and information exchange between the Contracting Parties of both Conventions and to support national initiatives of Contracting Parties for coordinated implementation of CMS and Ramsar. At the time of writing (September 2016) CMS has 124 Parties and Ramsar has 169.
4. The updated JWP is organized in five sections: National policies; Regional agreements and initiatives; Management of species populations and wetland ecosystems; Global science and policy; Information, outreach and capacity building.
5. The JWP is attached as an Annex to this cover note.

Action requested:

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- i.) Endorse the new CMS-Ramsar Joint Work Plan 2015-2017;
- ii.) Provide any comments and suggestions to guide the Secretariat in its overall cooperation with the Ramsar Convention in the remaining inter-sessional period until COP12.

Proposed Joint Work Plan 2015-2017
Secretariats of the Ramsar Convention and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)

This plan identifies a non-exclusive list of activities on which the Ramsar Convention and CMS Secretariats agree to cooperate within the framework of their Memorandum of Cooperation.

1. National policies

Activities	Timeframe
1.1. To support national policy initiatives of Contracting Parties of both Conventions for coordinated implementation of the CMS and Ramsar Conventions, through the dissemination of relevant guidelines and encouraging consultation among relevant national focal points, cross-representation on relevant national implementation committees and working groups, streamlining and harmonization of reporting processes, and adequate reflection of Ramsar and CMS interests in the updated National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and in initiatives of other relevant biodiversity-related conventions.	2015-2017
1.2 Encourage regular communication between CMS and Ramsar focal points at national level.	2015-2017

2. Regional agreements and initiatives

Activities	Timeframe
2.1 To take opportunities for facilitating mutual participation (helping each other attendance, resources permitting) in relevant meetings under either Convention, including those organized at regional level in the framework of the Ramsar Convention and its Regional Initiatives, those organized under CMS auspices in relation to individual Agreements, Memoranda of Understanding or other instruments, and workshops on technical topics of mutual interest.	2015-2017

3. Management of species populations and wetland ecosystems

Activities	Timeframe
3.1 To support the development of policy and management approaches in Contracting Parties of both Conventions, furtherance of the most recent scientific knowledge and best practice thinking concerning ecological networks in relation to migratory species and wetlands.	2015-2017
3.2 To continue to develop joint intelligence, research and response mechanisms in relation to wildlife diseases.	2015-2017
3.3 To explore the scope for synergy in responding to other emergency situations (such as mass die-offs), in follow-up to Ramsar Resolution IX.9 and CMS Resolution 10.2.	2015-2017
3.4 To collaborate in research, management, information and outreach activities related to the sites that are listed by Ramsar and at the same time are included in the Network of Sites of Importance for Marine Turtles of the Indian Ocean and South East Asian (IOSEA) Marine Turtle Memorandum of Understanding.	2015-2017

Activities	Timeframe
3.5 To collaborate with Contracting Parties in the implementation of the GEF project on Dugong and Seagrass in the Indian Ocean & Western Pacific (resources permitting).	2015-2017
3.6 Support Contracting Parties according to the Operational Guidelines for Regional Initiatives in the implementation of the Ramsar Strategy for High Andean Wetlands and the CMS Memorandum of Understanding on High Andean Flamingos.	2015-2017
3.7 Support Contracting Parties according to the Operational Guidelines for Regional Initiatives in the implementation of the various regional Ramsar initiatives covering mangroves and coral reef ecosystems, and the CMS Memorandum of Understanding on Migratory Sharks, having a particular focus on the conservation of CMS listed sharks, sawfishes and rays.	2015-2017
3.8 To continue to enhance the identification of overlaps between the interests of migratory species and wetlands of international importance, and to seek appropriate coherence between attention to “critical sites” for migratory pathways and strategic objectives for networks of protected wetlands.	2015-2017
3.9 To undertake specific advisory missions at the request of Contracting Parties on a joint basis in cases where the interests of both Conventions may be involved (resources permitting).	as required

4. Monitoring and assessment

Activities	Timeframe
4.1 Follow up on the implementation of both Convention’s Strategic Plans and assessments of progress towards the global Aichi targets, inter alia through the expert consultative processes established under the Convention on Biological Diversity, and in cooperation with the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre.	2015-2017

5. Global science and policy

Activities	Timeframe
5.1 To consider collaboration, resources permitting, on the production and printing of synthesis products focused on water, wetlands and migratory species interests in respect of the economics of ecosystems and biodiversity, including collaboration on new work by the Ramsar Scientific & Technical Review Panel in this subject area, and follow-up to the reports of the “TEEB” study.	2015-2017
5.2 To disseminate to Contracting Parties of both Conventions COP Resolutions of mutual interest and align and harmonize where possible proposals for COP Resolutions on technical subjects of mutual interest (such as climate change, the energy sector, extractive industries and impact assessment).	2015-2017
5.3 To coordinate participation and joint statements at meetings of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) in the context of the Biodiversity Liaison Group (BLG).	2015-2017
5.4 To publish jointly technical guidance materials of the STRP and CMS Scientific Council of mutual interest where appropriate (and resources permitting) to be made available to Contracting Parties of both Conventions.	2015-2017

6. Information, outreach and capacity-building

Activities	Timeframe
6.1 To organize efficient cross-distribution to the two Conventions' constituencies of materials for the promotion of World Wetlands Day and World Migratory Bird Day as well as of CMS species awareness campaigns if they are of any relevance for Ramsar, and to issue mutually supportive public information about each of these Days and campaigns.	2015-2017
6.2 Support (resources permitting) Contracting Parties of both Conventions, including cross-representation on capacity building workshops and investigation of ways and means to support the application of the Flyway Training Kit developed under the GEF project Wings Over Wetlands (WOW) as well as any other outreach materials.	2015-2017
6.3 To consider creative ways of mutually enhancing Secretariat capacity, for example through staff placements, exchange of interns, and reciprocal temporary staff secondments for "pressure point" occasions such as COPs.	2015-2017
6.4 To collaborate in joint activities e.g. the project on the Enhancement of Information and Communication Technologies and Capacity at CITES, CMS and Ramsar.	2015-2017