



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)

Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

23rd Meeting of the CMS Standing Committee

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COLLABORATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Prepared by the Secretariat

1. The Strategic Plan for the Convention on Migratory Species 2000-2005 recognizes that the aims and objectives of CMS complement and reinforce those of other international conventions, and are shared by other international, governmental and non-governmental organizations. The plan stresses the need for co-operation in areas of mutual interest. Operational objective 4.4 (Linkages) calls for CMS to “strengthen orderly institutional linkages with partner organizations and in particular define jointly, under the umbrella of the Convention on Biological Diversity, within a global context involving the main biodiversity related conventions, the scope of their responsibility and the ways to improve, in the most efficient way, their tasks and to enhance their synergetic effect.”
2. To that end, the CMS Secretariat has endeavoured over the past two years to conclude memoranda of cooperation with a number of its counterparts and has been re-examining existing co-operative arrangements with a view to making them more substantial -- for instance, through the elaboration of joint work programmes. The work is very much an ongoing process, whose timetable depends on many factors that are not the exclusive domain of the Secretariat. The present paper summarizes the current state of development of these formal initiatives (without mentioning the day-to-day institutional collaboration that exists with or without a more structured framework). Where possible and appropriate, drafts of various joint work programmes and memoranda of understanding are annexed.
3. Besides the instruments mentioned below, the Secretariat has had contacts with counterparts from the *Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution*, the *Cartagena Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region*, BirdLife International, and IUCN - The World Conservation Union about the possibility of elaborating comparable cooperative agreements, however other pressing commitments have thus far prevented these from coming to fruition.
 - A. Convention on Biological Diversity
4. Significant discussions on migratory species were held at the recent SBSTTA 6 (the scientific body of the Convention on Biological Diversity) meeting held in March 2001 in Montreal. Building upon previous CBD and CMS decisions and resolutions, decision V/21 of the CBD requested the development of a proposal on how migratory species could be integrated into the work programme of the CBD and the role CMS could play in the implementation of that proposal.
5. SBSTTA recommendation VI/8 (see Annex I) underscored strong support for further collaboration, co-operation and synergies with CMS. Among others, the delegates attending the meeting unanimously recommended to the forthcoming CBD COP6 (The Hague, 8-19 April 2002) that:

- (1) CMS be recognized as the lead partner in the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species over their entire range while recognizing that CMS provides an international framework through which Range States can cooperate on migratory issues
- (2) CBD Parties report through their national reports on the extent to which they address migratory species at the national level, and on their cooperation with other Range States;
- (3) An assessment be made of the financial resources needed to support capacity building and specific projects aimed at incorporating the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species and their habitats.

6. The SBSTTA also requested the CBD Executive Secretary in close collaboration with the CMS Secretariat to develop for the consideration of the CBD COP 6 a joint programme of work for the Conventions which would be implemented at all levels. A draft joint work programme was submitted by the CMS Secretariat to the CBD Secretariat in July, and their comments are expected by early November. This draft joint work programme (contained in Annex II) addresses areas of common interest, namely, protected areas, indicators, monitoring and assessments, sustainable use, public education and awareness, and includes priority areas for action, time frames, identifies key actors and ways and means to implement it.

7. The SBSTTA also invited the CBD Executive Secretary to generate in collaboration with the CMS Secretariat and relevant organizations, guidance for the integration of migratory species into the national biodiversity strategies and action plans and ongoing and future programmes of work under the CBD.

B. Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

8. A memorandum of understanding between the Ramsar Bureau and CMS Secretariat was signed in February 1997, identifying the following areas for active collaboration: joint promotion in the area of Party recruitment; institutional co-operation (eg information exchange and cross-representation at meetings); joint conservation action; mutually beneficial data collection, storage and analysis; and co-operation in development of new agreements on migratory species.

9. Recognizing a need to elaborate more explicitly the nature of such collaboration, and to include also activities pertaining to the work of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), the respective secretariats have exchanged a number of working drafts of a Joint Work Programme 2002-2003, of which the last version appears at Annex III. At the time of writing, this draft was being consulted within the Ramsar Bureau. As the Ramsar Standing Committee meets in early December, shortly before the CMS Standing Committee meeting, it is hoped that a text can be finalized and presented to both bodies for endorsement on these occasions. The Secretariat will provide an update on the status at the meeting.

C. Wetlands International

10. A memorandum of agreement was signed between Wetlands International and the CMS Secretariat in March 1997 outlining opportunities for mutually beneficial co-operation in the areas covered by the Wetlands International network of offices (in Africa, Europe and Middle East, in Asia-Pacific and in the Americas). This co-operation has manifested itself, for example, in the form of Wetlands International contributions to the further development of the AEWA, efforts to promote accession to CMS of non-Party countries in Asia and, most recently, inputs to the Central Asian Flyway initiative.

11. Notwithstanding the major restructuring taking place within Wetlands International, it was considered important and useful to flesh out the memorandum of agreement by developing a more detailed Joint Work Programme. A first draft, prepared by the secretariats of CMS and AEWA, is currently under review by Wetlands International. If the text has been developed further by the time of the Standing Committee meeting, it will be appended to this report.

D. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

12. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has recently been finalised between the CMS Secretariat and the responsible branches of the World Heritage Convention and Man and Biosphere Programme of UNESCO. The text, which is submitted for the Standing Committee's endorsement, appears at Annex IV. For its part, UNESCO is expected to table the memorandum for endorsement at its next meeting in May 2002. The Standing Committee is invited to endorse the MoU, before it is formally signed by both parties (some time after UNESCO's Executive Board has endorsed it presumably in May 2002).

E. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

13. Limited capacity in both the CMS and CITES secretariats has stood in the way of more in depth consultations on a draft MoU prepared by the CITES secretariat, however it is expected that these discussions will resume in the new year.

F. United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

14. The Secretariats of both conventions have undertaken to develop some points of convergence - an excellent starting point for further deliberations in areas of collaboration. Two successful meetings were held and a technical meeting is planned as a precursor to the development of a Memorandum of Understanding and a Joint Work Programme for the two convention secretariats. It is expected that the MoU and the first Joint Work Programme, will become operational by the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties.