



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

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11th MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Quito, Ecuador, 4-9 November 2014

Agenda Item 21.3

ENHANCING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CMS FAMILY AND CIVIL SOCIETY

Summary:

The current CMS Strategic Plan 2006-2014 and proposed Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023 recognize that strengthening a network of partners and establishing a dialogue with other key sectoral groups whose activities have impacts on migratory species are crucial to promoting CMS and its mandate.

A draft resolution has been submitted by the Government of Ghana for consideration by the 11th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP11).

It proposes to review options for mechanisms for reporting NGO-facilitated work, models for further NGO involvement in CMS processes and modalities for NGOs to provide implementation and capacity-building expertise in key regions. It is expected that this review can provide a contribution for the Strategic Plan Working Group to consider as well as supporting the broader CMS Family in implementing the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023.

The Conference of the Parties is expected to review the draft resolution with a view to its adoption.

ENHANCING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CMS FAMILY AND CIVIL SOCIETY

(Prepared by the UNEP/CMS Secretariat)

1. The current CMS Strategic Plan 2006-2014 and proposed Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023 recognize that strengthening a network of partners and establishing a dialogue with other key sectoral groups, whose activities have impacts on migratory species, are crucial to promoting CMS and its mandate.

2. The Second Meeting of the Strategic Plan Working Group held on 25-26 November 2013, acknowledged the presentation of the report “*A Natural Affiliation: Developing the Role of NGOs in the Convention on Migratory Species Family*”¹, which was based on contributions from the CMS Family and more than 100 civil society organizations. The Working Group agreed that the Plan (or Companion Volume) should be clear about the role of the different stakeholders involved in its implementation, including Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

3. The Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its first universal session adopted Decision 27/2: *Implementation of paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development*, which decided:

... the governing body will ensure the active participation of all relevant stakeholders, particularly those from developing countries, drawing on best practices and models from relevant multilateral institutions and will explore new mechanisms to promote transparency and the effective engagement of civil society in its work and that of its subsidiary bodies, inter alia by:

- a. Developing by 2014 a process for stakeholder accreditation and participation that builds on the existing rules of procedure and takes into account inclusive modalities of the Commission of Sustainable Development and other relevant United Nations bodies;*
- b. Establishing by 2014 mechanisms and rules for stakeholders expert input and advice;*
- c. Enhancing by 2014 working methods and processes for informed discussions and contributions by all relevant stakeholders towards the intergovernmental decision making process;*

4. UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.15.2: *Final Draft Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023* proposes to extend the mandate of the Working Group to include the tasks of elaborating the indicators and Companion Volume during the triennium 2015-2017.

5. To that effect, a draft Resolution on *Enhancing the Relationship Between the CMS Family and Civil Society*, submitted by the Government of Ghana, proposes to review options for mechanisms for reporting NGO-facilitated work, models for further NGO involvement in CMS processes and modalities for NGOs to provide implementation and capacity-building expertise in key regions. It is expected that this review can provide a contribution for the

¹ Prideaux, M., (2013). *A Natural Affiliation: Developing the Role of NGOs in the Convention on Migratory Species Family*, Wild Migration, and Australia. A slightly revised version of the document is part of COP11 documentation, see document UNEP/CMS/COP11/Inf.15.

² <http://www.unep.org/unea/docs/proceedings1.pdf>.

Strategic Plan Working Group to consider as well as supporting the broader CMS Family in implementing the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023.

Action requested:

The Conference of the Parties is invited to:

- Review and adopt the draft Resolution on *Enhancing the Relationship Between the CMS Family and Civil Society* annexed to this note.

DRAFT RESOLUTION

**ENHANCING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
THE CMS FAMILY AND CIVIL SOCIETY**

(Submitted by Ghana)

Appreciative of the sustained commitment to the CMS Family that has been consistently demonstrated by civil society, including Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), scientific institutions, independent scientists and independent policy experts in many parts of the world, a commitment recognized in key Resolutions and Recommendations since CMS COP4;

Aware that the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council at its First Universal session in February 2013 adopted Decision 27/2 on institutional arrangements, *inter alia*, to explore new mechanisms to promote transparency and the effective engagement of civil society in its work and that of its subsidiary bodies including: developing a process for stakeholder accreditation and participation; explore mechanisms and rules for stakeholders expert input and advice; and consider working methods and processes for informed discussions and contributions by all relevant stakeholders towards the intergovernmental decision-making process;

Recognizing the findings and recommendations of *A Natural Affiliation: Developing the Role of NGOs in the Convention of Migratory Species Family* (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Inf.15) that responds to a number of activities highlighted in CMS Resolution 10.9 *Future Structure and Strategies of the CMS and CMS Family* and also mirrors the directions of Decision 27/2 of the UNEP Governing Council;

Noting the report of the Chair of the CMS Strategic Plan Working Group (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.15.2) and CMS Resolution 11.x *Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023*.

Conscious that many of the CMS Family agreements benefit greatly from a respectful and collaborative relationship with civil society, including NGO involvement in implementation of conservation activities and also from support of the Governmental processes; and

Conscious also that the collaborative relationship could be enhanced to further benefit the CMS Family programme of work;

*The Conference of the Parties to the
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals*

1. *Invites* NGO Partners to review options for furthering the relationship between the CMS Family and civil society including, *inter alia*:

- 1.1 Mechanisms to enable NGO-facilitated work to be formally and consistently reported across the CMS Family;
 - 1.2 Models for further NGO involvement in CMS processes such as Ramsar's 'International Organization Partners; and
 - 1.3 Modalities for further strategic engagement with NGOs to provide implementation and capacity-building expertise in key regions;
2. *Instructs* the Secretariat to facilitate presentation of the review of progress and to invite contributions from the 44th and 45th Meetings of the Standing Committee;
 3. *Invites* NGO Partners to draft recommendations for consideration at the 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and
 4. *Invites* Partners and donors to consider providing financial assistance to support the review process.